

Saudi sun and sand take toll on U.S. gear

By John King
The Associated Press

EAGLE FORWARD BASE CAMP, Saudi Arabia — The harsh conditions of the Saudi desert are taking a toll on U.S. military equipment, affecting simple mechanical gear as well as sensitive high-tech equipment, from M-16 rifles to weapons guidance systems.

A vehicle containing several tow anti-tank missiles and other weapons exploded at a motor pool Monday and the men suspect heat was a factor. The workshops patrolling the waters around the Arabian Peninsula are also having problems, officers and maintenance crews said.

"When you buy a stereo, what do the instructions say?" Marine Tate Ingles of Miami asked during a recent interview. "They say you should keep it away from heat, dust and vibration. You put the same electrical gear in the Saudi desert, and, well, there you have it."

Because of the heat and sand, weapons systems that rely on sensitive electronics and computers could be troublesome to operate if extended hostilities broke out, technicians say.

At Eagle Forward, a base camp for Apache gunships and other helicopters of the 101st Airborne Division's air assault brigade, the soft Saudi sand blown by the desert wind is the big headache.

"It's unbelievable. It gets everywhere," a maintenance crew member said.

Crews are flushing out the Apache engines with water every day to rid them of the sand. The powdery sand also finds its way into transmissions and gears that turn the rotors, forcing more frequent maintenance on those systems as well.

"Hovering around in the desert is going to be very hard on the engines," said Greg Maisel, the executive officer of a marine attack squadron.

Helicopters are being fitted with radiator filters much like the black wraps often seen on fronts of sports cars.

"We were having a lot of overheating problems because of sand clogging the radiators," squadron leader Don Cody said. "We think the filters have fixed that."

The sand scours the paint from rotor blades, exposing metal that glints in the sun, making the helicopters easier to spot.

Sand is the reason the air force is cutting the time between its routine maintenance. Tests and routine adjustments made every 100 hours are now being done every 60-75 hours, an air force official said.

One persistent problem is sand clogging air-take valves of jet engines. Much like the Apaches, the engines of air force and navy planes, on the ground and aboard carriers, are being flushed with water daily.

A marine sergeant cleaning his automatic rifle noted: "Sometimes I'm not sure if I would fire if I needed it to. We

train in the desert, but I've never seen anything like this."

Tanks need more frequent filter cleanings and track flushing and higher viscosity oil. Radiators need to be checked constantly to prevent overheating.

The sand cakes on headlights and windshields and can get into the fuel supply if proper care is not taken.

Weapons systems protected from the sand can't escape the scorching sun.

Within days of arriving here, 82nd airborne units were reporting dead radios because wires were burned out or fused by the heat.

One officer in the division said Monday that parts for the radios and other equipment being damaged are getting hard to come by. "We're short quite a few things," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I'm sure we'll get them eventually."

Meantime, ingenuity is helping.

On Tuesday, two 82nd soldiers were at a Safeway supermarket in a Saudi town, buying all the sponges and cloth.

The equipment problems are frustrating, but the maintenance crews try to keep a sense of humor.

"Some officer says, 'hey, my radio don't work,'" Ingles said. "I tell him: 'Sir, if you'd been sitting out here under a magnifying glass in 130-degree (Fahrenheit, 54 Celsius) temperatures all day, you wouldn't work either."

Sheikh Saad says no stepping down

LONDON (Agencies) — The crown prince and prime minister of the toppled emiri regime of Kuwait said Wednesday the ousted ruling family had no intention of stepping down as part of any plan to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also said he did not see any reason for a plebiscite on the future of the ruling family in the event of an Iraqi withdrawal, saying: "The Kuwaiti people have already expressed their opinion. They are emphatic about what kind of government they want."

The prince expressed his gratitude to those countries which had helped Kuwait and warned Jordan that it could not expect aid from Kuwait to continue if the ruling family is restored.

"Jordan has to hear the consequences of its own policies and the serious mistakes it has made and continues to make," the Prince said.

Jordan has been seen by pro-Kuwaiti allies as one of the weak links in the economic blockade of Iraq.

The prince said Kuwait's aim was the removal of Iraqi troops and the restoration of the pre-invasion government.

"Neither I nor any Kuwaiti official can concede a single inch of our territory," he said.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

"It is strange that the Egyptian president talks about his keenness on the (safety) of the Iraqi people while hastening to overthrow the military option against Iraq more than his masters do," INA said in a commentary.

It ridiculed a recent statement by Mubarak in which he said that he would call for a U.S. troop pullout from the Gulf region once Iraq withdrew from Kuwait.

"Is Mubarak aware of the statements by the U.S. secretary of state, (James Baker), in which he said American forces might stay in the Middle East even after the end of the Gulf crisis as part of a new regional security order?" INA said.

"It is very clear from this determination to lie that the official Egyptian policy is involved in the conspiracy," it added.

It said Mubarak has received "a downpayment for his treason" by facilitating the deployment of American and other Western forces in the region.

INA was apparently referring to a statement by the White House Tuesday that President George Bush would ask the Congress to cancel some \$7.1 billion owed by Egypt to help offset the impact of the Gulf crisis.

"A practices of the Egyptian regime, including its links to Camp David confirms... it is becoming an agent to the American-Zionist plan in the region," INA said.

Baghdad also said Wednesday that any invasion of Iraq would cost America "thousands of sad coffins."

"When Bush invades Iraq he will discover too late that aggression is a deadly involvement, not a pleasant excursion as he imagines, and that Iraq is not of the type that surrenders or weakens in such cases," said Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

"He will also find out that aggression against Iraq is much more costly than he thinks and that winning the war is a mission impossible."

"Economic and social calamities and crises and thousands of sad coffins are all that await the U.S. from its premeditated aggression on Iraq," Al Thawra said.

"The U.S. will not only lose its political and moral prestige but also its international standing as a superpower, if not the superpower, in the world."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Senegal to send troops to S. Arabia

DAKAR (AP) — Senegal will send troops to join the multinational force building up against Iraq, President Abdou Diouf said Tuesday. There was no indication in Diouf's communique how many troops of what composition he will send, or when they will leave. Senegal was the first sub-Saharan African country to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and has demanded the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops. Diouf noted in his communique. The small West African country recognizes the right of all Gulf states to take whatever measures they deem necessary to preserve their security. Diouf said. He noted that Senegal's decision stems from "loyalty to the principle of international law and notably that of settling differences peacefully." Diouf also sent messages to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's toppled emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, expressing his support and that of the Senegalese people for the initiatives taken to restore peace in the region, the president's communique said.

Arab arrested in 1986 disco bombing

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Police have arrested an Arab on suspicion of complicity in the 1986 bombing of the La Belle disco that killed two U.S. soldiers and one Turkish woman, a justice official said. Cornel Christoffel, spokesman for the West Berlin justice authorities, said that a man he identified only as Ali C. had been detained in East Berlin on Aug. 27 on suspicion of aiding and abetting murder. The powerful early morning blast April 5, 1986 in the packed disco, a popular night spot with U.S. soldiers stationed in West Berlin, also left more than 200 injured. The bombing led to the U.S. air raid on Tripoli and Benghazi after U.S. officials claimed that Libya was involved in the brutal attack.

U.S. frees ship after reflagging

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) A Kuwaiti container ship detained by U.S. customs agents was cleared to sail Tuesday after reflagging under the United Arab Emirates flag. The vessel, carrying U.S. goods bound for Iraq, was released Tuesday afternoon after news of the reflagging reached Newark customs officials, said Ingrid Bismar, a U.S. Customs Service spokeswoman in New York. Three containers of machine parts loaded in the United States were removed from the ship before it set sail Tuesday night. Bismar said. Customs agents had detained the ship, Al Wafayah, Monday evening.

Columnist who criticised Islam is slain

ISTANBUL (AP) — A prominent columnist for a leftist weekly who wrote critically about Islam was shot to death Tuesday, police said. Turan Dursun, 56, a columnist for the popular publication Yuzuril (Century) was slain shortly after he left his house, said Istanbul police chief Hamdi Ardali. Ardali said there were no witnesses. Dursun's colleagues at the magazine said he had been receiving death threats because of his weekly columns, which criticised Islam. His column entitled "Religion Education," harshly criticised Islam and the Koran. Dursun was a mufti, an interpreter of Islam, by education and he was also the author of a book entitled "This is Religion."

Shamir accepts invitation to visit Argentina

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday accepted an invitation to visit Argentina, but a date for the official visit has not yet been set, Israeli radio said. Visiting Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Felipe Cavallo extended the invitation to Shamir during their meeting Tuesday at his office. Cavallo is the first Argentine foreign minister to make an official visit to the Jewish state. "I told Prime Minister Shamir that President (Carlos) Menem, his government and the Argentine people want to be very close to Israel," Cavallo said on Israeli Radio. "We had very good bilateral relations in the past, but we could still have better relations in the future," he added.

Australian charged after jumping ship

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian sailor who said television scenes of U.S. President George Bush playing golf spurred him to jump ship was charged in Sydney Wednesday with being absent without leave from his Gulf-bound guided missile frigate. A navy statement said a decision has yet to be made on whether a court martial would be convened to hear the charge against leading seaman Terry Jones, 23. Naval spokesman Commander Paddy Hodgman said by telephone a court martial would normally deal with such a charge. Jones failed to return to HMAS Adelaide on Aug. 22 when it sailed from Perth for the Gulf along with another guided missile frigate and a supply ship. The three ships initially set off from Sydney. In a statement issued on Aug. 28 through an independent Australian senator, Jones said: "After seeing one of the parties (Bush) responsible for it all on holidays, playing golf while committing thousands of young lives including those of Australians — it was enough for me to decide not to be part of the killing." "I am not a coward and I would be prepared to die for my country, but I am taking a political stand because this is not our war, we are just following the Americans."

Swiss president thanks Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad has received a message from Swiss President Arnold Koller thanking him for his help in gaining the release of two hostages in Lebanon last month. The message released by the official Syrian news agency SANA Wednesday said: "I and my colleagues in the federal council know the strong support provided by you personally, your close allies and officials of the Syrian military forces in Lebanon which led to this happy ending. We wish to extend to you our great appreciation and thanks."

Kuwait evacuees killed in Iran car crash

NICOSIA (R) — Three Bangladeshi refugees from Kuwait were killed when their car crashed in rugged northwestern Iran, the Iranian news agency reported Wednesday. The agency said the car driven by Ansar Ali Mov collided with a trailer on the Miyaneh-Zanjan road after the Bangladeshis crossed into Iran. The other two victims were not named. Iran said Sunday it was ready to allow passage to 100,000 foreigners fleeing Kuwait. Thousands of foreigners, mostly Pakistanis, have crossed into Iran since it opened its borders last week to refugees from Kuwait. About 1,000 refugees from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, are waiting for entry permits at Shalamcheh on Iran's southern border with Iraq. They will be transferred to Mirjaveh on the frontier with Pakistan.

Sri Lanka freezes Iraqi, Kuwaiti accounts

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka Wednesday froze Iraqi and Kuwaiti bank accounts to support a United Nations economic blockade against Baghdad, officials said. An order from the department of exchange control to commercial banks froze accounts of the Iraqi government and its agencies and all Kuwaiti state agencies. It also covered accounts of private-owned enterprises and individuals from the two countries. Diplomats were exempted. Bank officials on the Indian Ocean island did not say how much money had been frozen. Colombo said last week it would comply with a U.N.-led ban on trade with Iraq after defying the embargo for four weeks. On Tuesday, the U.S. navy impounded a freighter laden with Sri Lankan team as it entered the Gulf on its way to Iraq.

Emiri regime to help exiles

DHAHRAN (R) — The toppled Kuwaiti government is drafting legislation which could cost it up to \$55 million a month in living allowances for Kuwaiti refugees. Saudi newspapers said the government, based in the southwestern Saudi town of Taif, had decided to pay out 1,200 Saudi riyals (\$320) a month to heads of families in the kingdom and lesser amounts to their dependents. Kuwaiti Housing Minister of State Yehia Fahd Al Simit said last week there were 160,000 Kuwaitis still living in Saudi Arabia and 60,000 in other Gulf states. The Kuwaiti government spokesman told Reuters by telephone a cabinet decree was still being prepared but would probably be passed in a few days. The Saudi newspapers said dependents over 21 would receive 600 riyals a month and those under 21 would receive 300 riyals. There would also be housing allowances of up to 2,000 riyals per month per family and lump sum payments of 5,000 riyals to buy furniture. Kuwaiti officials said they would adjust allowances for their citizens in other countries according to the cost of living. Kuwaiti Finance Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said in Japan Tuesday his government would pay the allowances mostly from income on foreign investments valued at \$100 billion.

Iraq to allow Lebanese to return to Kuwait

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that Iraq will allow Lebanese who fled Kuwait after the Aug. 2 invasion to return. In a brief statement, the ministry said it had received word from Iraqi authorities that Lebanese citizens wishing to return to Kuwait would be granted visas through the Iraqi embassy in Lebanon. No details were provided. Ministry sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about 10 per cent of the estimated 50,000 Lebanese living in Kuwait left after Iraq invaded the country. Lebanon was among the countries which closed their embassies in Kuwait City in response to an order from Iraq that all foreign missions must close by Aug. 24.

Iraq to reward families of soldiers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Wednesday families of soldiers killed during or after its invasion of Kuwait would get the same compensation as dependents of troops who died in the war with Iran. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council, which issued the decision, did not say how many Iraqi troops died during or after the Aug. 2 invasion. Kuwaiti resistance spokesmen have said their guerrillas have killed up to 200 Iraqi soldiers since then. Iraq did not give details of the compensation offer. During the eight-year war with Iran families of war dead received cars, land for houses and \$7,000 as well as educational, medical and travel privileges. The Iraqi government magazines Alif Baa reported Wednesday that the authorities would execute anyone found buying or selling Kuwaiti-registered cars or trading in spare parts from stolen Kuwaiti cars.

'Islam endorses non-Muslim help'

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Muslim scholars Wednesday supported Saudi Arabia's decision to seek U.S. help against Iraq, saying the Koran endorses asking non-Muslims for protection. The scholars, attending a seminar on the Gulf crisis, issued a religious edict saying American troops had been called by Saudi Arabia to protect Islam's holy places against Iraqi attack. "Their presence (in Saudi Arabia) is not against Islam," said Wasi Mazhar Nadi, a prominent Sunni scholar and Pakistan's former minister for religious affairs. "Had the Americans not stopped the Iraqis, they would have captured the entire Saudi kingdom." Abu Bakar Hamza, secretary-general of the Islamic Unity Council, said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had disturbed the Kuwaitis, the Saudis and "the entire Islamic World." Several fundamentalist groups in Pakistan and other Muslim countries have argued that the presence of non-Muslim troops in Saudi Arabia violates the sanctity of Islam's holy land.

Brazil may send food to Iraq

TOKYO (R) — Brazil may provide emergency food aid to Iraq for humanitarian reasons if shortages there become serious, Brazilian Foreign Minister Jose Francisco Rezek said Tuesday.

"We are studying the possibility of sending food to Iraq on humanitarian grounds if such a need arises while foreigners, including some 250 Brazilians, are still there," he told a news conference.

Rezek, who was in Tokyo on a four-day visit, said Brazil would provide the aid in a way that would avoid violating a United Nations Security Council ban on trade with Iraq. He did not elaborate.

But the minister said he did not believe the situation in Iraq had become serious enough to call for any Brazilian food aid, and he hoped the crisis there could be resolved before the need arose.

"Even if we send food to Iraq, it would be a grant and would never constitute commercial trade with Baghdad," Rezek added.

Brazil, formerly an important trading partner with Iraq, has promised full support for the United Nations economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad because of its invasion of Kuwait.

The Brazilian government had no plans to resume exports of conventional weapons to Iraq even after the Gulf crisis ended, Rezek said.

India approaches U.N. on food

By Michael Battye
Reuters

NEW DELHI — India has told the United Nations it wants to send food and medicine to Iraq and Kuwait where its citizens form the biggest non-Arab group trapped by the Gulf crisis.

"We have presented a memorandum to the secretary general, (Javier Perez de Cuellar), saying that in any blockade, relief supplies of a totally focused character — food and medicines — should be allowed in on humanitarian grounds," an official said Wednesday.

There are 167,000 Indians in Kuwait and 10,000 in Iraq, according to the latest estimates. Some 12,000 are stuck at the Iraq-Jordan border. Only about 16,000 have made it home since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has said repeatedly their safety is the paramount consideration and India wanted to send food to Iraq and Kuwait for them.

Indian officials declined to say whether the dispatch of food was an Iraqi pre-condition for Delhi to be allowed to evacuate its nationals.

An Iraqi embassy spokesman said Baghdad had requested food and medicines from India, but refused to reply when asked if an Indian rescue mission depended on Delhi agreeing.

Diplomats, who asked not to be identified, said Iraq's demand was definitely a condition before Baghdad approved the sending of Indian ships and planes to bring

home those trapped.

"My understanding is that that is exactly what the Iraqis have said," one diplomat said.

They said India's approach to Perez de Cuellar followed strong opposition from the United States and other Western countries to Delhi's earlier plan to send food and medicines to Iraq and Kuwait without asking for U.N. permission.

"The Americans and others have told (the Indian government) that this is an embargo and food and medicines are covered by it," a diplomat said.

"Their position is that we have not yet reached the stage where food is a humanitarian need, that the Iraqis have supplies probably for another six months."

"India was told that if it had problems with that interpretation of Security Council Resolution 661 (imposing the embargo), it should go back to the U.N. on the subject," said another diplomat.

"Their plight is understood. They have a major problem on their hands but the Americans couldn't let them start a bandwagon others would jump on."

"My impression is that they have retreated because they are not keen to be branded as sanctions husters," said another. An Indian ship capable of carrying 600 people sailed for Kuwait from Bombay Saturday, but the departure of a larger vessel has been delayed, one senior official said.

Plans to send Indian air force planes to Baghdad and the Iraqi port city of Basra have not been implemented. Officials declined to say why.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:00 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 Arabic film
22:30 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:15 Moliere's
18:40 Des Chetres et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 The Return of Sherlock Holmes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week

PRAYER TIMES

06:49 (Sunrise) Du
07:00 Fajr
12:34 Dhuhr
16:08 Asr
18:59 Maghrib
20:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church 6:15
Tel. 811740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627735
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657430

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 665226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 915817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate, becoming fresh in the daytime. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 16 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 36
Dahab 17 / 33
Jordan Valley 23 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 72 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Raouf Muzawwa 894778

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 69544

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 661111, 637007

Fire Brigade 691228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843400

Traffic Police 896190

Public Security Department 630201

Hotel Complaints 661179

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

AMMAN: Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Raouf Muzawwa 894778

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hamra Medical Centre 8181532

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442316

Ahmed Maternity, J. Amn. 6442416

Jahar Maternity 642632

Madras J. Amman 656140

Palestine Hospital 6647174

Shamsan Hospital 669131

Al-Mustafa Hospital 6672797

Al-Farooq Hospital 6641646

Al-Farooq Hospital 7701013

Al-Bayt - Ashrafieh 7751129

Aray, Maria 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 60224050

Amal Hospital 574155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109983321

Zarqa National Hospital 109991071

Deir Ezzor Hospital 09986732

DEIR: Princess Basma Hospital 021275555

Greek Catholic Hospital 021272275

Dr. Al-Nafar Hospital 021247100

AQABA: Princess Hava Hospital 033114111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 10815320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:30 New Delhi (RJ)
16:35 Cairo (RJ)
16:40 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:55 London (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05 Aqaba (RJ)
17:10 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:15 Doha (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:25 Doha (RJ)
17:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
17:35 Moscow (

Bakers plea for assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The influx of hundreds of thousands of people from Iraq and Kuwait into Jordan has placed on Jordan, with its limited resources, a great burden. This influx in draining the country's stocks of flour, sugar and milk, originally stored for Jordanians' use. Jordan and its people are sharing these commodities with their human brethren. This is threatening Jordan with more sufferings.

We therefore raise our voice asking other nations and world organisations to help the government and people of Jordan by supplying us with more flour, sugar and powdered milk. The world has wasted a lot on means of destroying human life, we only ask for little to preserve thousands of lives.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Zaben visits hospitals

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben Wednesday visited Princess Basma Educational Hospital in Irbid city and inspected its various sections and the services it offers to citizens in the city. Zaben was briefed by the hospital director on the needs of the hospital and the hardships facing it. The minister also visited the Al Iman State Hospital in Ajloun.

Zu'bi returns from Libya talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Deputy Salim Al Zu'bi returned home Wednesday after taking part in the meetings of the Arab Democratic Congress held in Libya. Zu'bi said the participants in the two-day meetings, who are representatives of political organisations or independents from Arab countries, stressed the need to lift the siege on Iraq and not to starve its people, and called the Arabs to stand by Iraq in confronting the foreign aggression on the holy shrines. The participants, he said, rejected all forms of foreign domination of Arab wealth.

Minister, ambassadors hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh received Wednesday Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen and discussed with him efforts made to provide job opportunities for Jordanian engineers in Yemen. Rawabdeh received also the Lebanese ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him bilateral relations in the field of public works and housing and ways to promote them.

Jurists start conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The third conference of the Arab Jurists Federation will start in Amman Sept. 8. The two-day conference will discuss several issues related to the Arab World, human rights, the basic freedoms in the Arab World and unifying Arab laws. President of the Jordanian Jurists Association lawyer Jalal Abbassi said the permanent bureau of the federation will meet here on Sept. 7 to discuss means to support the Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories and counter the occupation authorities' repressive measures against Palestinians.

Cooperative societies blast foreign intervention in Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Wednesday between delegations representing the Jordan Cooperative Society (JCO) and the Iraqi General Union of Farming Cooperative Societies. The meeting was co-chaired by JCO Director-General Jamal Al Budour and the union's acting President Sajir Zubair. After the meeting the two sides issued a joint statement lauding the national stands of His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in facing challenges posed to the Arab Nation and in countering "the Zionist-American conspiracy." The statement denounced the foreign intervention in Arab lands and warned of the threats it poses in the region. The statement asked for lifting the siege against Iraq and affirmed that U.S. actions in the region do not comply with the principles of humanity and justice.

Committee on environment meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Guiding Committee entrusted with drafting a strategy on the preservation of nature and environment in Jordan held a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karkim Al Dughni and reviewed the achievements of its sub-committees. The higher committee decided to extend the period for drafting the strategy for six more months. The meeting was attended by Secretary-General of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Mohammad Bani Hani.

Courses on relief works to start

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRP) and the United Nations Office for Refugees Welfare decided to authorise the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) to organise urgent training courses on relief works in emergency cases. These courses aim at preparing qualified cadres capable of coping with emergency cases. The courses will train participants on dealing with emergency population gatherings and the distribution of food and health aids. Members of official and public societies and committees, which are currently contributing to managing relief operations in Jordan, will participate in these courses.

Seminar on infant mortality opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar entitled "Infant Mortality Rate in Jordan" was opened Wednesday at the University of Jordan by the university's Vice-President of the Faculty of Medicine Musleh Al Tarawneh. The seminar is organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology in cooperation with the university's Centre for Developing Manpower in the field of health.

W. Germany sends plane for Egyptian evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upon request of the Jordanian government, the Federal Republic of Germany has dispatched an aircraft (167 seats) for the humanitarian purposes of flying Egyptian evacuees back home. The aircraft has been engaged in a shuttle-flight service from Amman and Aqaba to Cairo to help evacuate 6,000 Egyptian nationals over a period of 10 days ending September 6, 1990. This contribution by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany was intended to reduce the burden which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is shouldering in its service of humanity.

Police search for hashish dumpers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The police are searching for a car which had dumped 56 kilos of hashish in a dumping ground off the main highway between Mafrag and Zarqa on Tuesday. A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) here said that a police patrol spotted the American-made car turn off the highway and head towards the dumping site before returning to the main road after a while. Upon spotting the police patrol, the driver sped away along the same highway heading towards an unknown destination, said the spokesman. After a search of the dumping site, police patrol found 56 kilograms of hashish in two sacks, obviously left there by the escapees.

Jordan Television — open window to the world

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign journalists from all over the world now gathered in Amman have, at one time or another, visited Jordan Television since the "newsmaking" Gulf crisis broke out Aug. 2. As one moves from studios to control rooms and into the room where journalists meet and talk one wonders how they have managed to ship over all their equipment in a matter of days. Well, it is not exactly all that.

Most of the foreign media, since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait have been pouring into the Kingdom trying to capture the Arab perspective of the Gulf crisis with the idea of broadcasting their reports abroad. Jordan now caters to the needs of the multitude of foreign journalists in the country.

Jordan Television is one of the companies that have rendered their services to the foreign television networks stationed indefinitely in Jordan. According to Radi Alkhas, director of Jordan Radio and Television: "We have been helping them in terms of facilitating the foreign agency's feed to the satellites."

John Stapleton, presenter of an English programme (the Time, the Place) in International Television (ITV), says "we could not have coped without the television's help." He explains that when their network decided to come to Jordan only two people were flown out. Without technicians or equipment of their own, they sought the cooperation of Jordan Television.

Many in the international media have voiced appreciation of the cooperation of Jordan Television, though some could not help remembering the difficulty of passing through the customs at the airport.

Cable News Network (CNN) told the Jordan Times that the process was slow. "It wasn't so much the accompanied equipment that gave us trouble, rather it was the packages that were sent to us which remained at the airport for a long time until we ran around town trying to get specific papers," says a member of CNN.

Another television crew said that "the problem is the bureaucracy. To get certain

permits is a long process even if Jordan Television is the mediator."

Though Jordan Television could be of little assistance in transportation matters (and as time took its course most matters were solved), Alkhas asserts that "we have given space for their equipment and editing." Additionally, Jordan Television gave foreign media time in terms of the use of equipment and facilities and macro links for out of studio interviews. He says Jordan Television has given the networks broadcasting units for live shows and four-wire circuits for broadcasting agencies.

As for the coordination between the two sides, it was described as generally good by the international media. But there were occasions when minor problems occurred, a member of International Television Network (ITN) said. He elaborated saying: "One day we would be sent the wrong material in order to broadcast our reports, so we would have to call again and ask for the right equipment."

"As valuable as it is, time seemed to be lost too much too often," commented a television reporter who preferred anonymity.

Back in the broadcasting room, Stapleton speaks to his technician as he shifts position and the testing of cameras and lights. Stapleton, who was in Amman only for three days, maintains that there was no problem at all with communication and getting accustomed to the technical facilities. "Although they are slightly different from the ones we use in England, there was no difficulty; the goodwill, hospitality and helpfulness were tremendous."

As far as giving out bardware services to the hundreds of reporters in the Kingdom, the reporters agree that it has "been quite impressive." "Most of the foreign agencies have employed people working for, or close to the television so the sources are there," says CNN.

On a regular day, a member of CNN explains, "we call Jordan Television in the morning and ask about what is going on." Jordan Television answers back and the coordination of required items begins. Alkhas says that in addition to air stations in Be'ka there are also six mobile air stations for live programmes of

foreign television networks.

However, Alkhas admits that providing the facilities causes great difficulties since international agencies have different time zones. In other words, Jordanian Television staff have to "work round the clock to make broadcasting possible for the foreigners." He says that "we are compensating the staff with overtime pay," stressing that "economically it is not a burden because we are charging the foreign agencies according to international rates," but Alkhas did not elaborate more as to where the money goes. "Similarly, the international media declined to disclose the amounts that are paid to Jordan Television."

The tight schedule national television is running on is evidently affecting the national programmes that would usually be broadcast on Jordan Television. Alkhas maintains that to keep the balance "we have prolonged the news bulletins by an extra half hour and our programmes are more serious and mostly deal with the issue at hand."

Looking around the city of Amman, one can see that virtually all the hotels are thronging with foreign news agencies. In fact, the majority of television and radio agencies have been provided with by Jordan's satellite and air stations. A quick head count found that there were 47 television cameras, excluding Jordan Television, focused on United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at his press conference Sunday Sept. 2 at the Royal Cultural Palace. One member of the press attending the conference exclaimed that "sometimes one cannot even see the speaker while sitting at the back."

This seems to be a big issue with the press attending conferences; too many wires, television sets and commotion. But as one person commented "I don't think Jordan has ever seen so many reporters at one time." Jordan Television is doing its best fighting to ease off the pressure of squeezing time between the foreign agencies and Jordan Television, according to Alkhas. At the same time he feels that "we are presenting our case and we are able through the Jordan Television to keep the Jordanians voicing their opinions abroad."

Jordan exports JD 1m worth of produce

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan last month exported \$8,400 tonnes of fresh fruits and vegetables to different countries, worth JD 1 million. The export exceeded by 8,700 tonnes the amount exported in the same month of last year, according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

It said that Jordan, in return, imported 899 tonnes of garlic and sage, compared to 1,215 tonnes of potatoes, dates and garlic imported in the same month of last year.

AMO said that most of the exported products were tomatoes, melons, cucumbers. It noted that there was a drop in exports of eggplants, grapes and lemons compared to August 1989.

AMO statement said that most exports went to Arab Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

Government announces plans to cut expenses

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its continued drive to cut on spending and reduce consumption the government Wednesday announced a series of measures designed to curtail expenditures by its various departments and offices and said that cuts would be 25 per cent of the total allocated funds for the remaining part of the year.

The announcement, made in a communique issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, said that cuts of 25 per cent on expenditures will be effective as of Sept. 1 and end on Dec. 1, 1990 except for the following: medicines, school textbooks, aid to the poor and allocation for scholarships.

The announcement said that all government departments should secure prior approval from the Prime Ministry in matters concerning purchases of equipment worth more than JD 5,000 even if they had been included in the capital budget for 1990.

Approval from the Prime Ministry should also be given for new construction projects, except for agricultural roads, the announcement said. It said that after the approval has been given, coordination for the implementation of projects should be made with the general budget department.

The announcement said that cutting down on expenditure does not mean postponing payment, but genuine cuts.

The cut in government offices expenditure comes in the wake of the introduction of a food rationing system affecting three staples: sugar, milk and rice and three weeks after the government announced steps to reduce energy consumption.

On Aug. 19 the government said that public organisations were not to put on lights during day office hours nor use air conditioning in order to save energy and appealed to the public to refrain from excessive energy consumption and to use electrical appliances only when necessary.

Since the announcement last month, lighting of streets and public squares has been cut by half and the government said other steps would be taken later in a bid to save energy, especially oil, most of which was coming from Iraq.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.

FILM

- Feature film entitled "The Searchers" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

UNRWA, WFP aid evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Wednesday received a donation of 100 tonnes of corned beef from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to be distributed to stranded transients in cooperation with Medecins Sans Frontiers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the local Jordanian authorities.

The announcement was made by UNRWA headquarters here which also said that the agency was providing transport to deliver the food to the reception centres at Amman International Fair Centre, Al Andalus, Aqaba, Ruweisheed and Al Azraq.

The agency has also provided QAF with 500 kilos of powdered milk and 100 litres of detergents as part of its contributions to the local charitable and voluntary organisations for the benefit of the foreign expatriates stranded in the Kingdom.

According to the announcement, UNRWA provided 600 kilos of rice, sugar and tea as well as rebuying salt to about 700 Filipinos now housed at the old British Embassy Club in Amman. The agency agreed to provide

the Middle East Council of Churches with one tonne of corned beef, one tonne of rice, 200 kilograms of sugar, 100 kilos of powdered milk and 50 kilos of tea to be distributed to about 200 evacuees accommodated at 11 reception centres supervised by the Council of Churches.

Other services rendered by the agency included logistical support to the World Food Programme (WFP) to distribute 45 tonnes of foodstuff.

The announcement said that UNRWA and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were coordinating their moves to provide environmental health and sanitation services for the thousands of evacuees in Jordan.

Sanitary services are also provided by the agency to some 6,000 Pakistani expatriates now housed at the Amman International Fair Centre.

The WFP will also provide food assistance worth nearly \$2 million, including \$354.2 to pay for its external and internal transportation.

Responding quickly to Jordan appeal to the United Nations for help in assisting the evacuees, the programme began by releasing in August 1,080 tonnes of food,

including wheat flour, sardines and sugar, from its stock of commodities for development projects in the country.

Given the magnitude of the problem, the programme is now increasing its assistance both in quantity and in variety of the food basket. WFP will provide food during 90 days for 120,000 people in transit through Jordan for a total of 2,700 tonnes of wheat flour, 216 tonnes of canned fish or meat, 216 tonnes of canned cheese, 216 tonnes of pulses and 108 tonnes of sugar. These figures include the food previously released.

An officer from the Disaster Relief Service of WFP, Mr. Lars Bjorkman, is currently in Jordan to assess the food needs of the evacuees and the logistics of food distribution. After visiting the camps at Ruweisheed and in Amman, he said that there was an urgent need to reinforce the food basket and to improve food distribution. He also added that the rations the evacuees are receiving were fine for a few days, but those unable to leave Jordan immediately will need more food, specially the vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and children.

Transport sector discusses sanctions impact

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting grouping ministers and businessmen as well as prominent figures from the public and private sectors involved in the transport business held a meeting here Wednesday to discuss the adverse effects of the Iraq trade embargo on the business and on the national economy.

Ministers of transport, industry and trade and tourism were among those taking part in the meeting during which participants exchanged views on the situation and decided to set up a special committee. The committee will prepare a working paper to

be submitted to the government with ideas for solutions.

Jordan announced last month that the transport sector stood to lose \$1 billion annually from the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council on Iraq for taking over Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Ministry of Transport officials said that nearly 22,000 trailers and trucks, which used to operate along the Aqaba-Baghdad route, are now lying idle because of the sanctions.

Jordanian factories and other businesses stand to lose \$280 million in exports to Iraq and Kuwait annually and the country will be deprived of millions of

dinars normally transferred by Jordanian expatriates.

Representatives of the various truck companies, of Jordan Iraq Land Transport Company and of Syrian Jordanian Land Transport Company said that the stoppage "dealt a devastating blow" to their business, and that they were trying to find ways to overcome the problem.

A memorandum sent to the U.N. Security Council by the Jordanian government last month said that the Kingdom stood to lose over \$4 billion as a result of compliance with Security Council Resolution 661 which calls for sanctions on Iraq.

Foreign presence in Gulf illegal — expert says

By Sahar Qara'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The presence of the American and multinational forces in the Gulf area is considered illegal and illegitimate from the legal point of view. This was announced by Secretary-General of the Union of Legal Experts Shabib Al Malki who said that the American claims that they are implementing the international law are false and illegal, asserting that the U.S. is only concerned about the oilfields in the Gulf area and aims at destroying any Arab military force and dominating the Arab World.

In a press conference held in Amman Tuesday Malki pointed out that the United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Sunday that the U.N. did not ask the U.S. to send its forces to the Gulf area adding that "the economic blockade is also considered illegal for it violates the Fourth Geneva Convention according to which any economic blockade should not include food, medicine and milk."

Malki confirmed that the international law considers imposing an economic blockade as an act of war, contradicting the Fourth Geneva Convention which can not be violated even by the Security Council.

He called on the United Nations to take action against the U.S. and its Western and Arab allies for violating the international law pointing out that the U.N. should implement the military resolutions through its military committee.

Malki added that the emergency Cairo summit is an illegal one for it was not preceded by good preparation and its resolutions

and voting mechanism were against the aspirations and ambitions of the Arab public.

He pointed out that President Hosni Mubarak prevented some Arab leaders from expressing their viewpoints during the summit, adding that Somalia and Djibouti, who were initially siding with Iraq, turned against it in the voting process for economic reasons.

"The resolutions of the Arab League are noncommittal and illegal for any resolution has to be taken unanimously as stated in article three of the league's charter," according to Malki. He added that the Secretary-General of the Arab League Chadi Klibi took his decision to resign in order "to defend his dignity" after he felt that the league became "a means by which the United States passes its resolutions which fulfill its wishes and needs through its Arab allies, particularly Egypt."

League officials refused to disclose the reasons behind Klibi's resignation but Arab diplomatic sources said that the Syrian and Saudi ministers accused Klibi in Cairo of not doing enough to get more Arab states to send troops to Saudi Arabia.

The secretary general of the Union of Arab League Experts announced that the union will hold its third conference on September 8, 1990 in Amman under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

The conference will focus on three major issues: 1. Arab current issues and some international issues relating to the Arab struggle.

2. Defence of human rights and democratic freedoms in the Arab World.

3. Unifying laws and legislations.

defending the sovereignty of law and justice and independence in the Arab World.

The three-day conference will be followed by another conference for the permanent committee for human rights, which aims at discussing what Malki described as "the imperial and Zionist aggression against the Arab World."

Malki added that the conference will call on the Arab people's court which is headed by the secretary general of the Union of Arab Legal Experts to hold its sessions to sentence President Bush and Prime Minister Thatcher and their Arab allies for their crimes in the Arab World against Palestine, Lebanon and the Gulf region.

The court, Malki added, had passed death sentence on former Egyptian President Anwar Al Sadat after betraying the Arab Nation through signing the Camp David accords with the enemies of the nation (Israel) in 1979.

Arab

(Continued from page 1)

to attend the Cairo meeting to discuss the transfer, bitterly opposed by Iraq. Diplomatic sources in Tunis say Tunisia will not attend that meeting.

The government newspaper Le Renouveau Wednesday criticised the Cairo meeting. "This manoeuvre stems from bad faith and a manifest disrespect for the Arab League Charter," it said.

Iraq, originally named to oversee the transfer to Cairo, is now trying to block the move because of Egypt's strong opposition to it over the Gulf crisis.

EMBAJADA DE VENEZUELA

Se agradece a todos los ciudadanos de nacionalidad Venezolana que se encuentren en Irak-Kuwait Acudir a la embajada en Baghdad Al Mansour telefonos: Cancilleria 5420894 Residencia 5410883 - 5422644 Para actualizar su registro. Aquellos que se encuentren en Amman, favor dirigirse Al Ambassador Hotel

Drive carefully!

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردان تيمز: جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تنشر بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Concrete proposal for superpower summit

THE PROPOSAL of the Soviet Union put forward recently by its Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze to convene an international conference on all Middle East conflicts has to be viewed as a positive and pragmatic move by Moscow. Such a proposal corresponds with the call for all indiscriminate application of U.N. Security Council resolutions as a comprehensive deal. As a matter of fact, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein made an offer on August 12, calling for the implementation of all the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Middle East including those adopted recently on the Gulf crisis. There was an obvious opening in Saddam Hussein's offer which the Western world did not want even to hear about. Iraq's August 12 proposal clearly implied an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and a de facto recognition of Israel but somehow Washington and London chose not to consider it as a means of defusing tension in the area. From the Arab point of view, the West's blindness to this genuine Arab stand has prevented it from seeing a golden opportunity to settle the Gulf conflict in all its dimensions. It is therefore most heartening that Moscow has decided to bring it up again and offer and develop it into a concrete proposal. As international attention is focused now in the direction of the Gorbachev-Bush extraordinary summit next Sunday, it is incumbent on that superpower meeting to formulate a clear position on the Soviet move. A real breakthrough in the ongoing stalemate on all fronts in the Middle East would ensue if President George Bush accepts the logic of the Soviet proposal. If he does not, then the West's position would be so untenable that it would have a slow death in due course. Mr. Bush must be reminded that there are no U.N. Security Council resolutions that are more sacrosanct than others, and he should manifest sufficient intellectual, moral and political courage to be evenhanded towards all the pressing Middle East conflicts be they in Palestine, Lebanon or the Gulf. Saudi Arabia is also called upon to pronounce itself on the Soviet proposal prior to convening the Gorbachev-Bush summit. Riyadh's call on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait would be greatly undermined by its lack of support for the call for a simultaneous Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories invaded and occupied by Israel 23 years ago. Otherwise, Saudi Arabia and all like-minded Arab states would be in effect sending signals to the Gorbachev-Bush summit to the effect that occupation of Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian shrines is less important than occupying Kuwait and its oil wells.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

KING HUSSEIN did everything in his power during his North African and European tours to defuse tension in the Gulf and to win world support for Arab mediation efforts to end the crisis there, said Al Rai Arabic daily in its editorial Wednesday. The king has outlined to the leaders of the countries he visited the dangers of a conflict in the Gulf, and urged those leaders to contribute towards a peaceful settlement as being the only alternative to avoiding disaster, the paper continued. The king, said, the paper, called for patience and more time to enable the Arabs to deal with the question and arrive at a peaceful formula. Peace-loving nations should now back the king's efforts, and they are called on to persuade those countries inclined towards war to abandon this dangerous and evil idea which can only bring about more disasters and tragedies to the world, the paper said. In the meantime, the Jordanian people can only take pride in their king's peaceful efforts and, added the paper, they are all united in their efforts to serve national interests.

A columnist in Al Rai daily drew attention to the need for medical and health authorities in Jordan to double their efforts in preventing the outbreak of contagious disease in the Kingdom as a result of the presence of thousands of expatriates of different nationalities. Salah Abdul Samad says that there is need to impose stricter measures in health issues and is monitoring water resources at the expatriates camps in order to prevent the spread of disease. The Health Ministry can and ought to issue leaflets in different languages to the expatriates, instructing them on the best means of providing protection for themselves from diseases and on matters of cleanliness and ways to avoid contagious diseases, the writer suggests. Jordan is free of cholera which is now spreading in Lebanon, Morocco and other Arab countries, and the Jordanian people would like to see it free of any diseases and would like to live in a clean and healthy environment, and health authorities are called upon to achieve that goal, the writer adds. He says the camps of the expatriates should be kept clean and in hygienic conditions if epidemics are to be avoided.

Al Dstour daily referred to Crown Prince Hassan's repeated calls on the international community to extend help to Jordan to deal with the question of the foreign nationals fleeing from Kuwait. The paper echoes the prince's views that unless relief supplies and transportation facilities were provided the Kingdom was bound to face a major disaster, because no one can guess about the huge numbers of the evacuees pouring onto Jordan all the time. Assistance to the tens of thousands of expatriates stranded in Jordan should come from the world community at large, and nations of the world should realise that this is a human tragedy requiring help from all, added the paper. The paper said while Western nationals are being helped by their countries in matters of accommodation and transportation home, those of the Third World are doing nothing to help Jordan to deal with the problem. The paper repeated the Crown Prince's words that Jordan can not cope with the problem, and said the United Nations and its various organisations should now step in to deal with the situation.

The world is too small

By David Foster
Associated Press

WENDOVER, Nevada — Richard Sherwood thought it ironic. The men who dropped the Hiroshima atom bomb — the deadliest weapon ever unleashed in war — were gathered at their old training base to dedicate a monument to peace.

This, Sherwood had to see. For whatever the atom bomb did to end World War II, it secured no peace for him.

In August 1945, Sherwood was a 21-year-old bomber pilot stationed in the Western Pacific. He didn't help drop the world's first nuclear weapon on Hiroshima, Japan, but he believes his mission was even more troubling — witnessing the charred ruins during a low-level photographic flight after the blast.

The devastation he saw, changed his life, and he vowed to work toward non-violent ways of settling conflicts, a vow he keeps today as a peace activist in Salt Lake City.

He had hoped his work for peace would help him forget the horrors of war. It did not. So last weekend, after 45 years, Richard Sherwood decided to confront his past head-on.

"A celebration for world peace," said the banner strung over the road. "Wendover welcomes the 509th composite group."

Wendover, a little desert town, served as the World War II base for the 509th, a top-secret wing of the army air corps formed specifically to drop the untested atom bomb.

There had been reunions before, but last month's gathering was the biggest, drawing nearly 500 members and wives.

There were three big attractions. A monument to the 509th would be unveiled. They'd be able to visit their old air base, now abandoned. And best of all, they'd get to see retired Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, former commander of the 509th and still its spiritual leader.

Tibbets piloted the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. He didn't make the decision — that was President Harry Truman's burden — but today he is the bombing's most outspoken defender, saying it brought a quick end to World War II and saved more lives than it cost. He has no regrets, no remorse, and no patience for those who question the rightness of using the bomb.

Arriving at the reunion, Sherwood had little patience for the general.

"Tibbets," he said angrily. "Tibbets would have a different feeling if he had been 50 metres over that destruction and saw what I saw."

When the atom bomb exploded above Hiroshima, it created a fireball that leveled 62,000 buildings and killed 80,000 people. Directly beneath the blast, people were vaporised. Up to three kilometres away, the heat charred skin. Stone walls glowed red, and rivers clogged with floating bodies.

Sherwood recalls "an utter chaos of squirming human destruction" and still breaks into tears at the memory. "I felt so cannibalistic, I could scarcely accept what I saw."

After the war, Sherwood returned home to Salt Lake City and tried to forget. He married, finished college, and got a job with the city's water department.

Above all, he said, he kept busy. But the memories stuck. In 1981, at the urging of his Methodist minister, he became more active in peace issues, hoping to find what he calls "sanction" for his World War II involvement.

Sherwood has protested the MX missile and participated in peace walks in the Soviet Union.

More recently, he organised a vacation-exchange program between Americans and Soviets.

At 66, his sharp pilot's eyes have dimmed somewhat but still are as blue as the desert sky. His thick brown hair has thinned and whitened.

He looked like most of the men at the reunion, where aging soldiers peered through bifocals at name tags to jog their fading memories of old wartime buddies. Few recognised Sherwood, which did not surprise him. He says he was attached to another wing, flying with the 509th only briefly as a replacement pilot.

Some expressed doubt at his tale. Tibbets, who has written a book about the mission, could not remember Sherwood's reconnaissance flight, but neither could he remember that it did not occur. "After 45 years, who can say? Go with his story," Tibbets said.

Most of the men Sherwood approached just wished he would go somewhere else with his tale. He wanted to recall the horrors of war. They wanted to reminisce

about parties and wild army nurses.

"Listen, I don't want to argue the point with you," said Fred Kopka, who worked in the 509th mess hall. "It was us or them, kill or be killed. The Japanese were going to fight tooth and nail if we had to invade Japan. The bomb saved a million lives."

Sherwood moved on. He wanted to talk to Tibbets, but Tibbets was busy, signing autographs for admirers who had lined up to buy his line of commemorative Enola Gay books, posters, coffee mugs and videos. Sherwood decided to try again later.

At a "Men's remembrance," Tibbets was busy, signing autographs for admirers who had lined up to buy his line of commemorative Enola Gay books, posters, coffee mugs and videos. Sherwood decided to try again later.

Nonetheless, by nightfall, Sherwood was elated. In the empty parking lot of the Wendover visitors' centre, he sat by the 509th monument, which still was shrouded in black plastic.

He said the reunion made him feel less lonely in his anguish.

"There's no doubt in my mind they're hurting, too," he said. Why else, he asked, would they be so defensive about their role in dropping the atomic bomb? Why else would they feel to erect a monument praising themselves?

"I see me and them, and I know where they're coming from," Sherwood said. "I had feelings of disgust for Tibbets. I no longer do. What's happening here today gives them a feeling of acceptance for what they did. They're getting sanction. I understand how they're feeling."

But understanding is not enough, he said.

"We have to change. There's no way out of atomic holocaust unless we find an alternative to building bigger and better bombs. There are some real differences we can make. All we have to do is start to realise that everybody has a responsibility to live internationally. The world is too small now to isolate ourselves."

At the dedication ceremony the next morning, Tibbets rose to speak, and the crowd gave him a standing ovation. At 75, he is hard of hearing and walks stiffly, but he held their respect as if he still were their commanding officer.

Be not ashamed for bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he told those gathered. Nuclear weaponry has "caused peace to reign... for 45 years," he said.

The United States was fighting a war against an entrenched enemy, he said. If allied forces had been forced to invade Japan, perhaps a million lives would have been lost, he said, compared with the estimated 180,000 who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Americans today often don't appreciate the sacrifices that ensured our present good fortune, he said.

"They don't want to exercise their brains by reading about what happened in those days. Well, that leaves some of us to tell them what happened. Hopefully, they will remember it," he said.

Then Tibbets unveiled the memorial, a 5-metre granite obelisk supporting a bronze replica of the Enola Gay. Below was a plaque with the logo of the 509th composite group, a lightning bolt and the phrase "first atomic bombardment."

For a peace monument, it was strikingly martial. But then, so was the ceremony. Little mention was made of the victims.

The Rev. William B. Downey, 509th chaplain, closed the ceremony with a dedicatory prayer:

"We thank thee, God, for the atom bomb, through which peace came to our world."

A squadron of jet fighters thundered overhead and the band struck up another tune. Tibbets and other crew members of the Enola Gay were corralled for pictures in front of the obelisk.

Suddenly, Richard Sherwood was there, too, smiling and shaking Tibbets' hand. Sherwood shouted a few words, but Tibbets could not hear above the crowd. He gave Sherwood a puzzled look, then turned again toward the cameras.

For a moment, the hawk and the dove stood together. Despite their differences, they have a common bond in their conviction that the world must never forget the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But just what is that lesson? Peace comes through strength, says Tibbets.

Peace comes through understanding, says Sherwood.

It is clear which message won this day. Tibbets was the hero. Sherwood was in the way. A camera-toting woman shouted, "the crew, just the crew," and Sherwood retreated into the crowd, and observer once again.

For Bush, the enemy at home is impatience

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For President George Bush, the easy part is over. So far, he has only had to cope with Saddam Hussein. Congress is back in town next week.

The president got a glimpse of the shape of things to come if he checked on what was said afterward by the 170 members of Congress who interrupted their vacations for a presidential update on the Gulf showdown.

Bush appealed for bipartisan support, and he got it, effusively. But there was an uneasy undertone after the session that suggested criticism is lurking — especially if the deployment turns into a stalemate.

Stalemate is the best Bush can hope for — it beats war — while he waits for the international quarantine of Iraq to work.

But American public opinion is not so good at waiting.

Not if the price of gasoline keeps rising and the economy keeps sinking.

Not if television carries pictures of Kuwaitis on the French Riviera driving to rallies in their Mercedes Benz automobiles to cheer on the American boys.

Not if U.S. women soldiers — on

full television display in soldierly roles for the first time — run afoul of cultural differences in a Saudi society that gives women scant status and no equality.

Bush can stand the heat from Congress, but if the American people turn against this enterprise they can ultimately end it. That was Vietnam's lesson for policymakers.

Mark Mellman, a Democratic pollster, guesses Bush has a fairly short period.

"If we just keep 200,000 troops in the Saudi desert without them having any clear goals other than deterrence, I think his support will dissipate fairly quickly," Mellman says. "It may be 60 days, it may be 90 days, it may be six months, but we don't have something happen by Christmas. I'd guess support will dissipate."

Americans are impatient, by and large, and goal-oriented and success-oriented," he added.

"This represents a tremendous financial commitment and an emotional commitment and for many people a real hardship."

Political scientist Dick Barody of Stanford University, a student of public opinion, says he is still mystified over whether public opinion leads the politicians or vice versa. "People who want to

do other things with the money will begin to portray this as a war-that-isn't and a foreign policy that isn't getting us anywhere," Barody says.

At the end in Vietnam, the public could no longer stomach the war and Congress responded by refusing to appropriate money for any purpose there other than to bring home the troops.

After hearing from Bush last week, Congressmen did not directly challenge his decision to confront Saddam Hussein.

When politicians want to be critical of a policy that appears popular, they attack it from the fringes rather than frontally. That's what happened.

They complained that while Bush has rallied the world's support for isolating Saddam, the venture is still largely an American undertaking.

"If we don't watch it, we'll have a 90 or 95 per cent share of the on-the-ground troops," said Congressman David Obey. "I don't think that's politically sustainable at home."

Congressman David Bonior, a Michigan Democrat, said his constituents already are complaining that the Japanese, the Austrians and others are not doing enough. Congressman Christ-

opher Smith, a New Jersey Republican, added the Soviets to the list.

They said Bush had failed to articulate America's purpose. They said he had to specify the nature of the threat to the U.S. national interest.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware told Bush directly, participants reported, that lawmakers like himself who came of age during Vietnam want to know "what we're doing in Saudi Arabia."

And they criticised the administration for failing to develop a policy that would make the country less dependent on foreign oil. Congressman Norm Dicks of Washington State said some pointed out to Bush that he hadn't even brought his Energy Secretary, James Watkins, to the meeting.

None of that is direct criticism of what Bush has done in standing up to Saddam. There will be none if he succeeds. But in this situation, stalemate is not success.

Dicks said that erosion of public support is inevitable.

"Already, there are people asking, 'why is it we are out there,'" he said. "Is it just because of cheap oil?"

Gulf crisis puts NATO under strain as alliance seeks new role

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — The Gulf crisis has punctured NATO's euphoria at the end of the cold war and set the Western alliance a problem as it sought to map out a new role.

Set up in 1949 to face a Soviet threat, NATO is forbidden by its charter from intervening outside the territory of member states. But Iraq's invasion of Kuwait affects the security of all members and one, Turkey, borders Iraq.

Stock markets have plunged, oil prices have soared, there has been much talk of recession.

"Our problem is that Western security depends as much on economic factors as anything else," said one NATO diplomat.

"We cannot allow someone like (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to simply do as he pleases in an area that produces one quarter of the world's oil. What if he gets nuclear weapons? But we cannot act as an alliance, because we are purely defensive."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher criticised European allies for doing too little to support the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf. "NATO simply must

be prepared to do some out-of-area defence," she said last week.

Her line won support from the North Atlantic assembly, which groups parliamentarians from alliance nations.

"The NATO charter must be amended in order that NATO take on a broadened role, determining conflict not only in Europe, but wherever else conflict may threaten the security of alliance members," assembly president Patrick Duffy said.

Failure to move in that direction would strain the alliance, he said, agreeing with Thatcher that the United States would eventually tire of being the world's policeman.

U.S. President George Bush has already appealed for others to take a bigger share of the burden. Washington has asked NATO allies for ships to carry troops and equipment to the region.

So far, the only NATO members to make a significant military contribution have been Britain and France — but on a purely individual basis.

There is no serious talk of changing the charter at NATO headquarters. Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said recently such a move would be "prema-

ture."

"As long as one or two countries strongly oppose changing the alliance's defence brief, it is most unlikely that there will be any movement," said another NATO diplomat.

NATO prides itself on reaching decisions by consensus. Unlike the European Community, it has no supranational powers.

France, which left NATO's integrated military structure in 1966 to pursue a fiercely independent line, has signalled that it does not want NATO to become a global police force.

"Paris has made clear that French forces in the Gulf region will remain firmly under national command."

Spain shares many of the French qualms and some other NATO members are doubtful about any major change in its charter, alliance sources said.

The irony is that the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and warmer East-West relations mean that NATO forces massed in central Europe could have been assigned to the Gulf.

"We have a command structure, and we still have the military muscle," said one diplomat. "But we can't use it."

LETTERS

To Mr. Molnar — with sympathy and concern

Last week, an open letter to Mr. Bush was published by Mr. Molnar expressing his anger that his son was ordered to the Gulf region as part of the American deployment forces. This is a response by a Palestinian living in Jordan.

Dear Mr. Molnar,

I recently read your letter to Mr. Bush published in our local English paper, and I cried; for as you said good bye to your son, I was also saying good-bye to my son; as your son was coming to the Arab World, my son was going to the United States; as your son was leaving home on a mission of suffering, my son was leaving home on a mission of learning in order to be prepared for the service of his country, the very same country that your son, without any will of his own, might help to destroy.

In spite of the distance that separates us, and what seems a diversity of problems and interests in our two worlds, I would like you to know that there are people who care and deeply pray that your son, as well as all the young men and women — from wherever they come from — will be able to return home safe and without having to be part of a villainous war, dictated by politics that has no values and know no boundaries. As a Palestinian I know too well what war and political conflict means. For years millions of Palestinians all over the world, have been victims of such policies. We have suffered exile, statelessness and military occupation by Israel. We have patiently waited for the world to wake up and set things right. The United Nations have come up with several resolutions asking Israel to end occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and giving the Palestinians the right to return to their home-land. Up till now, no American government or world power has demanded from Israel to abide by these resolutions and immediately leave what it had occupied by force.

But now we are witnessing these same world powers, headed by the USA, adamantly demanding from Iraq to abide by U.N. resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait and threatening to evoke what might develop into a world war if Iraq does not comply. Moral creed dictates that U.N. resolutions should be honoured in an impartial manner; or would one say, that what applies to Iraq as an Arab country does not apply to Israel as the friend and ally of the USA? Why the double standards, why the injustice? I wonder why?

As victims of political greed and many of its injustices and its frustrations, and as human beings that share a fellowship of a common future, may we all do whatever we can, each in his or her own way, to reduce these frustrations and injustices and help create a worthier world for the future of our children. We owe it to them.

With deep prayers and sincere hope that the shadow of war will be lifted from this region and that you will soon be reunited with your son and that you will be proud of your country — as a power of peace and not of war.

Sincerely,
Tania Nasir

Drive carefully!

A free opinion on Kuwait's independence

WHILE congratulating the Sheikh of Kuwait, the Kuwaitis and those coming to Kuwait on their independence anniversary, we would like to assess the value of such a freedom and its price and discuss its components and how people feel about it. The "Daily Telegraph" newspaper said a few days ago that the whole entity of Kuwait was a mere "joke," however, we take the liberty to say that this entity is a "problem," which could amount to an irreconcilable one within the Arab ranks. After one year of controversial arguments about its pros and cons, many of the Arabs started to weigh the advantages of Kuwait's "independence" against the disadvantages, because that entity has achieved none of the genuine components of independence, except money, and money alone.

Money, in the first place, does not qualify to serve as a basis for independence, in as much as it becomes a target for greed, unless it is supported and supplemented by the necessary manpower, which can protect it. Jordan, for example, is one of the poorest countries in the Arab World, yet, it is shouldering greater responsibilities than any other country, given its location on the longest confrontation line with Israel. Despite this, Jordan has the power to participate in defending Kuwait, which owns an increasing wealth, and where the wealth of some individuals is equal to the budget of this entire struggling country. We have the right to examine the viability of Kuwait's independence on two fronts: its contribution to Arab unity and its contribution to the Palestine question. As regards Arab unity, everybody knows Kuwait's good contribution to it, but as regards the Palestine question, we can not see or find except 7.5 million dinars, which were given to Jordan as a loan with interest, exactly in the same manner as other investors or capitalists around the world do. The amount of the loan given to Jordan is in fact less than the loan given to London municipality and a bit more than that given to Beirut municipality. This 7.5 million dinars loan is, regrettably, Kuwait's contribution to improving the status of the people in the front-line villages and towns, in arming the national guards and supporting liberation soldiers. This same contribution is also a compensation for the great losses the Palestine question has incurred as a result of the differences and the complicated problems arising from Arab differences.

Independence is an event which gives us joy and makes us cheer in every spot of our blessed Arab land. However, we would be happier when such an independence contributes positively to our great Arab homeland. We look forward to that day when the Kuwaitis will know their duties, and the real and intrinsic value of their presence, and perform their duties in safeguarding their presence.

Kuwait should serve as a great bank, open for all the Arabs, who will then be its guards and protectors. It should also be a place for making peace rather than making enmity. And we wait for another independence celebration when the aims of Kuwait's existence serve it as well as the whole Arab Nation.

The above article was published in Alkhbar Al Youm newspaper on June 19, 1991.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Sept. 6, 1990 [A]

Man-made causes of famine exposed

By Barbara Sloane and
Phillips Neave

CAMBRIDGE, USA — A hollow-eyed child with skeletal limbs and a huge swollen belly stares vacantly at you from the television screen or the pages of a magazine. The harrowing look is even more haunting when you know that many famines are not the consequence of some natural disaster. Most are man-made and, as such, could be avoided, says Harvard University Professor Amartya Kumar Sen.

Misguided economic policies, war and politics can often be blamed, says Sen in a recently published work titled *Hunger and Public Action*, co-authored with Jean Dreze, a former professor at the London School of Economics.

The book argues that a new approach is necessary and that the solution to famines lies not in delivering massive amounts of food aid or trying to encourage people to produce more. The point is that food is often there but people have become so poor that they cannot afford to buy it, so it is diverted to more prosperous parts of the country or exported. The authors contend that to resolve the problem, governments must protect the income of society's most vulnerable people.

In a recent interview, Sen, who is a professor of economics and philosophy, commented on the theories he has been working on for over two decades and which were initially outlined in an earlier publication titled *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*.

Soft-spoken and articulate, Sen learned early about the consequences of poverty. "When I was nine years old I experienced the Bengal

famine of 1943, in which, it is now estimated, about 3 million people died. I was struck by how selective the effects of the famine were," he said. "In our village only a small group of people were very badly hit and died. There was something very puzzling about this, and so it got me interested in doing economics."

Over the years, he has researched the causes of famine and why it is that only five to ten per cent of a given population is affected. Sen emphasises that famine is directly linked to people's purchasing power. "It has something to do with employment and earning an income, and the money to buy food rather than the sheer availability of food as such."

Famine and government policy are intimately linked, the 57-year-old professor added. "It's a question of governmental planning, and of running an economy where people don't get reduced to a situation where they have to rely on the charity of anyone, including the merchants." He believes market forces dictate what happens to food availability and that private organisations can help in a time of real crisis, but he notes, ultimately the responsibility lies in the hands of the government.

It would be almost impossible for a famine to occur in a democratic situation in which the public can contest government policy, Sen said. "No democratic government can actually survive a famine," he added, and governments are less pressed to deal with the root causes of the famines in the absence of an active opposition and a free press.

In some cases, notably Marxist Ethiopia and Sudan's military government, famines

have actually been used as a political weapon. Embroiled in civil wars, both President Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia and Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan have forbidden or stopped the flow of relief supplies to rebel-held areas. In Ethiopia, where forced population relocation has compounded the problem, as many as 4.5 million people, over four times the number who died in the great famine of 1984-85, may die in 1990. In Sudan, where some 250,000 people died in 1987, an estimated 3 million are at risk and could die by the mid-1990s.

Conversely, Sen credits a multi-party democracy and the printed press for India's success in avoiding large-scale famine. News is transmitted quickly from village to city to the capital of New Delhi, he noted, "and within a few days of anyone dying, questions are being asked in parliament and the government is being asked to resign."

By comparison, China has a poor record in famine prevention, even though it achieved a higher general level of nutrition than India. "From 1958 to 1961 they (Chinese) had what is probably the largest recorded famine in history," Sen said. "It is now estimated that 30 million people died. This was after the Great Leap Forward programme — the government's bid to increase industrial development through intensive labour. As small farms were displaced, food supplies were disrupted, which caused widespread shortages. "For three years the government followed the same disastrous policy, while people were dying by the millions, without changing it," Sen said. Meanwhile the gov-



Most famines could be avoided if governments were held accountable for their economic and social policies, an Indian expert argues.

ernment-owned press carried no reports of the famine. Added the economist: "Democracy is quite central because without it there is no way in which the population's interest could be reflected in the urgency of government policy."

Public awareness is of paramount importance, according to Sen: "It's not easy to keep a population subdued once a question has been intelligently formed. As long as people don't perceive that they're deprived, deprivation can continue. Once they perceive, they're deprived, it tends to come out one way or another."

Despite dire predictions made by international organisations on Africa's economic future, the Harvard expert sees reasons for hope. There has been progress in the ability of governments to manage food policy, he said, citing Botswana, Cape Verde and Zimbabwe as having good records of managing food distribution. Yet, African anti-hunger policies will succeed "if, and only if, the (political) cost of having famines is raised enormously for govern-

ments." As an economist and a philosopher, Sen has also been studying the relationship between ethics and economics, as well as the impact of public opinion on the behaviour of private businesses and governments. His work on ethics is a reminder of a statement made by the late U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 who noted that "we have always known that heedless self-interest was bad morals; we know now that it is bad economics."

Sen argues that ethics is a necessary dimension to economics: "No business can actually succeed unless there are certain types of ethics that are followed, like trying to sign a contract and fulfilling its terms; people must have trust in your promise. Business would be impossible without that kind of ethics. Some kinds of ethics are already present in any successful business-oriented society. In fact, capitalism is a form of ethics besides being a form of industrial and business arrangements."

Professor Sen has received many international honours

for his approach to economic theory, in which he uses moral philosophy as a means to understand economic thought and practice. He recently became the second recipient of the Giovanni Agnelli International Prize for the Ethical Dimension in Advanced Societies.

He recalls becoming interested in the link between ethics and economics while growing up in Santiniketan, West Bengal. Both his grandfather and father taught at universities — his father at Dhaka University and his grandfather at the university in Santiniketan, established by Rabindranath Tagore, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. "I never really had the choice of not being an academic," Sen quips.

There are signs that his message on ethics may have been heard as a new decade starts: He probably looks with approval to the recent prosecution of some flamboyant financiers of the 1980s, and to the addition of ethics courses to the curriculum of many American business schools — World News Link.

Diary

Simple thoughts in simple terms

By Nermeen Murad

The following is pure fiction. If it correlates with the truth please dismiss it as a joke. Names and places are similar to those we see on a world map, but if anyone discovers a tinge of truth in the scenarios, consider it a strike of luck.

One of the most astounding elements at play in the Gulf crisis is the clear manifestation of human selfishness and the incredible ability to deceive one's own self into believing illusions. Many would argue that this is a simplistic statement which generalises all the complexities of what threatens to be one of the most catastrophic crisis of the twentieth century. But let us all look at the telltale signs which are at the forefront of what is taking place in the region and in the world at large. To accuse many of selfishness is to transcend the simple facts which are deduced from public opinion polls. Those show 80 per cent support for American President Bush or two thirds majority in France calling for negotiations or headlines here in Jordan saying "Jordanians jubilant over Iraqi takeover of Kuwait", or in places like Egypt where it is easily claimed that 99.9 per cent of Egyptians support President Mubarak. Selfishness boils down to personal interests.

Personal interests may be as simple as the great American dream formula which has among its elements the car. The thinking taking place in the different parts of the United States goes somewhere along these lines: The car needs petrol, the Arab has petrol, the Arab is a monster, this monster wants to take our car away from us. So... (with a little quick mathematics here) weigh out your options and voila "I want my car, to hell with the Arab."

The British, the people of the empire, are more realistic than the Americans. Their cars are smaller, they have some petrol of their own, but they want to continue their traditions of supremacy which they established during their colonial rule of the East as a whole — near, mid and far. Now our dear Mrs. T is trying to be "a man of action who says little." She tells us over and over again and maybe even feels it her duty to ensure world stability and continued existence according to the same border lines her ancestors drew for the region decades ago. She is probably lazy or would not bother to take geography lessons again.

Gorbachev, for his part, does not seem to have that problem. He has got the world map imprinted right on his forehead. The man really believed that the U.S. was the leader of democracy in the world and was happily trotting behind Mr. Bush at the beginning of the crisis only to be reminded "hey you Gorb, what are you doing? Those American troops are right there at your doorstep in a land called Saudi Arabia." The man remembered his patriotic Soviet feelings, balanced them out with the feeling of his empty pockets and took a decision, "I will just walk the tightrope those Third World countries are talking about."

Japan had always been seen as the faraway country, where the economy is booming, meat is expensive and people can afford to buy the rest of the world. However, it seems that behind the very civilised image is an itching to play war. The civilised constitution of Japan bans playing with soldiers' lives except on video screens. It is a problem. But lo and behold a monster suddenly appeared in a faraway land in Arabia who fits the missing link to the formula of dismantling the constitution. This is a threat that cannot be ignored. The constitution has to be changed but the Japanese are also known for their patience. So, in the meantime, they have decided to dump a load of cars and other vehicles in Saudi Arabia as their "physical" contribution to the effort.

Closer to home, the Arab World has disintegrated into three different categories: The leaders who like the West, the leaders who like their people and the third, those Arabs who are still harbouring strong national feelings that could make the Arab World really become the dignified United Arab States.

The Egyptians seem to have forgotten their great Arab nationalist Nasser and are now listening to a much more profitable tune. The Gulf states are running around confused and angry. After all it is their own personal crisis and "I want it all to myself, I don't care about what the people think, this land is mine and I want to keep it." The Syrians, who were the first to discover the word "imperialist" for us, appear to have found out they were reading the wrong dictionary all along.

Palestinians are really facing a dilemma... They don't even have a land where they can starve in dignity or spend their Gulf savings that they might have left. So they are still thinking, but are indignant every time someone mentions Kuwait could be their "alternate homeland." Their worries, however, appear to be real when it comes to those who are still living in Kuwait (that's too different and too sensitive a story. We will hear it later).

Jordan has a leader who likes his people, and a people who like him. This phenomenon called Jordan just wants to be dignified, it may end up being poor and dignified, but that is no problem. And if anyone thinks that this writer is biased in favour of her country, so be it. When you can't beat them, join them, the saying goes. And I am being like everybody else in the world, selfish.

Thoughts for this week

Perfection is attained by slow degrees. It requires the hand of time
— Voltaire, French Writer (1694-1778).

Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them
— Thomas Mann, German Writer (1875-1955).

All religions must be tolerated, for every man must get to heaven in his own way
— Prussia's King Frederick the Great (1712-1786).

When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty
— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born Playwright (1856-1950).

Woe unto them that are tired of everything, for everything will certainly be tired of them
— G.K. Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936).

Rat tests for low level chemical exposures 'useless'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Animal cancer tests in which rodents are fed massive doses of chemicals may be useless for calculating the cancer risks in humans because the dose itself may be causing the disease, researchers say.

In articles to be published Friday in the journal *Science*, two research groups question the value of government-supported cancer tests on rats. One suggested the United States should drop its concern about "trivial" traces of synthetic chemicals in the environment.

Bruce Ames, a professor of cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley, said cancer develops in rats fed high doses of chemicals because cells in the test animal are killed by the chemicals and are then replaced.

Each time replacement cells are grown, said Ames, there is a risk of a cancer mutation. The more cells that are replaced over a lifetime, the higher the odds of a cell mutating into cancer. But, he said, the cancer may be caused by the dose, not by the chemical action itself.

"Government dependence on animal testing for carcinogens is pretty much useless for protecting us against low levels of chemicals," said Ames.

In another paper in *Science*, Samuel Cohen of the Uni-

versity of Nebraska College of Medicine, said he and his colleagues demonstrated through studies on mice that there can be both a dose and a chemical effect in developing cancer.

For some chemicals, said Cohen, cancer developed in laboratory animals only at very high levels, while other chemicals at very low doses can trigger mutations that can lead to cancer.

Sydney Green, director of toxicological studies for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said that the views expressed by Ames and Cohen about the value of animal cancer tests are not universally accepted. But he admitted that some government scientists are starting to question past scientific assumptions on cancer tests.

Ames said that people are unreasonably afraid of synthetic chemicals, but that humans eat many natural cancer-causing chemicals in their everyday diet.

"Ninety-nine-point-nine per cent of all pesticides we eat are natural," he said. "You get more carcinogens in a cup of coffee than in all of the pesticide residues you absorb in a year."

Cohen said, however, that federal law requires all chemicals that cause cancer in test animals, no matter what the dose, must be regulated.

By Jessica Baldwin
The Associated Press

LONDON — British students learn all about Florence Nightingale, the heroic nurse of the Crimean battlefields, but what of Mary Seacole, a Jamaican nurse who served with equal devotion in the same war?

Therein lies the heart of an intellectual wrangle over how history should be taught in British schools.

One side says Britain's own history comes first. The other believes that, in what has become an ethnically diverse country, one child's footnote is another's historical landmark.

Most students know about Cecil Rhodes, the Victorian empire builder who dreamed of a Cape-to-Cairo railroad. But how many heard of King William Dappa Pepple Bonny V of Nigeria, who was exiled with his wife Annie from their realm and lived in London in the 19th century?

Debate centres on a national "core" curriculum mandated by the Education Reform Bill of 1988 in history as well as English, math and science-technology. The reform limits local choices, but does not do away with them.

The curriculum recommended by a history study group "is the only one that has generated the heat,"

Rozina Visram, a former teacher, said.

"Academics from high and mighty universities have thrown their hats into the ring. No other document has been given such a long consultation."

Those who approach history as a force in molding national pride and identity view the curriculum reform as a means of regaining the ground that has been slipping away since the liberal 1960s.

They want a return to teaching Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's great landmarks of British history: The Life of King Henry VIII, Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, the Battle of Waterloo, the Battle of Britain.

Opponents contend minority history must be included in a country whose ethnic minorities now total 2.6 million people.

Children of the inner cities will not "switch on to an all-white male experience," said Sylvia Collicott, a senior lecturer at the North London Polytechnic.

"In the classroom, you can't tell kids what to do. They won't do that anymore. They expect to be engaged. They won't sit there and take that."

Local schools have adapted to the cultural changes. In Bradford, where 53 of the 231 schools have non-white ma-

jorities, students learn a little of everything.

Tonnie Ecker's children attend Birkby School in Kirkstall, suburban Bradford, where "just about every ethnic festival is celebrated."

"It's wonderful," she said. "They come back and tell you the stories about various gods and all that. Sometimes their hands are covered for three days with mehendi patterns," butterfly or flower designs painted in a reddish dye.

The reform does not prohibit local diversity and ethnic celebrations, but critics say it makes so many detailed prescriptions of what should be in the curriculum that it leaves no room for ethnic studies.

Robert Skidelsky, a historian at Warwick University, said history trains people for citizenship, "and it touches many raw nerves."

So vehemently have academics disagreed that some fear the government will abandon the history reforms.

"There were too many theories floating around," Skidelsky said in an interview. "Pupils were becoming guinea pigs."

Michael Barber, education policy director for the National Union of Teachers, feels the curriculum is too detailed.

"What we need at the national level is an interstate highway map of the country, as opposed to a map of all the

local state roads and footpaths," said Barber, a former high school history teacher.

For instance, the working group's says students aged 7 to 11 should study invaders and settlers; the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain; life in Tudor and Stuart Times; Victorian Britain; ancient Egypt and Greece; and exploration from 1450-1550.

Each topic is divided into four areas: political-economic; technological-scientific; social-religious and cultural-aesthetic.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of detailed prescriptions," said Ted Wragg, director of Exeter University's School of Education.

He finds the proposals arbitrary. As an example, he said, students aged 14 to 16 studying modern American history would be required to learn about President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr., but President John F. Kennedy and the Civil Rights Movement would be optional.

Detractors, including the Teachers' Union, say less than the recommended 50 per cent of class time should be devoted to British history.

Mrs. Thatcher supports a heavy emphasis on British history.

Sour grapes

By Maha Addasi

I sat eating some of the season's fruits, when a plane passed overhead. It was a speck of silver as high up in the sky as the price of a plane ticket is today. But, who wants to fly anyway? With all the perils you come across while flying, who cares that the prices for tickets are unaffordable?

For me the perils of flying were numerous. Yes, there were many of them.

First, there was the flight schedule. It always seemed to be planned around me. If I went to the airport an hour before my plane was to leave, the plane would leave an hour later than scheduled. If I overslept, the little birdie would rush over and tell the pilot who would then decide to leave exactly as scheduled on the dot, so that when I reached the airport some ten minutes before take-off, I found myself spinning in a whirlwind between goodbyes, checkin desks, ticket counters and security doors (which, of course, as I was pressed for time, I had to go through a second time this time without my belt which beeped the first time). Then with duty-free shops and restaurants only a blur I made it on the plane in the nick of time.

The first couple of minutes went by as I huffed and puffed, relieved that I had made it on time, almost grateful that I was allowed on, even though my ticket had cost an arm and a leg. Gradually, I became aware of my surroundings. Surroundings because I had the middle seat. To my right was a foreign lady and to my left was another lady with a baby. Right behind me was a kid, who like all the kids, who ever sat behind me on a plane, kicked my seat. This time I was determined to be patient with the "kicker". That thought took two seconds to wear off. I turned around, and through the slit between the seats I

captured the kid's eyes in a glare, my eyes nearly popping out of their sockets. The stare carried the message "if you don't stop kicking my seat instantly, I will come back there gag and tie you up." As I glared I tried to avoid the embarrassed look in the parent's eyes (although some parents have been known to stare back).

With eight hours to go yet, only one thought crossed my mind. SMS. Save My Soul.

To get more comfortable, I had the ingenious idea of taking my shoes off. The lady to my right decided to do the same. What followed was beyond words. The odour was extremely pungent. And although I didn't speak that lady's mother tongue, that smell I understood, and it didn't take a translator either. I thought if I put my shoes back on, the lady would do the same. But she didn't.

Then there was the food. Somehow the aroma was so good but it never matched the taste. In fact, the food tasted so bad that we had been on the set of a movie there would have been a stuntman to eat the meal for the star.

Often it was a matter of passing time one way or another. Sleeping was never the solution because if I did find a comfortable enough position to sleep, I was never able to sustain sleep for longer than three minutes at a time. It's very simple. If you can't sleep on a plane, there is no force on Earth that is capable of making you sleep. Especially with all the nasty thoughts that cross your mind at any trace of turbulence. For me turbulence meant just enough time to say my last prayers.

I could go on and on but that would only be scratching the surface. Isn't this enough reason to pass up seeing the Statue of Liberty, or that Eiffel Tower, or the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Who wants to see those monuments? I go on reminiscing and I continue eating the season's fruit. Sour grapes with salt.

The principal

By E. Yaghi

The flavour of learning is in the air. The stillness of summer heat has been broken by the sound of noisy children swarming to school. Early mornings, once cool, quiet and undisturbed, are now shaken by the ring of school bells throughout the Kingdom.

In one district, nestled somewhere in the flowered suburbs of Amman, is a unique school. The factor that distinguishes this particular institute of learning is that it has the good fortune to be directed by one very special and exceptional principal.

With a benevolent smile, this certain principal calmly sits in her deep chair behind her large desk. Her office offers an atmosphere of relaxation and cordiality where people from all walks of life are welcomed into her cozy surroundings.

Her school is her dream, and a dominant factor in her life. With care and diligence, she dedicates thought and action to the concern and welfare of this dream. She is the spirit of her school and the school is her. Her attitude is a mathematical equation: school = principal, principal = school.

The teachers employed by her are her comrades and fellow workers, human beings to be considered. Her cleaning women are classified by their dignified titles of "Im-Yousef" or "Im-Samer." Her school bus drivers are also dealt with appropriate courtesy and respect. Her secretary is her "Girl Friday," who flies around performing miracles with a smile and energetic spirit. She is prompt and efficient with a sweet and friendly personality and a generous love for the school children.

The principal takes all bustle and action in with her warm observant look much like a protective eagle would watch

her fledglings. After daily lessons are over, she devotes much of her spare time in reading the latest information about new methods in child education and how to deal with juvenile social problems.

Her teachers, adopting her loving attitude, flock to and fro to classes consecrating their time and sharing their knowledge with their young students. Education is their magic wand that lights the darkness and separates ignorance from literacy.

Even the principal's bus drivers wear dedication to the school with pride and care. Students bounding to fill each bus with noise and energy are bundled away home on their various paths. Firm but kind words are used until the last child is entrusted to his haven.

The teacher responsible for the welfare of pre-school children and their respective distribution is an illustrious caretaker. Each child is considered a trust in her possession, an "amanah." Each child is carefully heeded on the bus and each is hand-delivered to its parents.

But much tribute must be paid to the school's owner who is in turn a great man with an enlightened intellect. He seems to sense or understand his principal's dreams and goals and supports most of her ideas with enthusiasm and spirit.

The total atmosphere of the school is encouraged and inspired by one woman's dream. A woman who is liberated in educational thought and devoted to her school, her work, her students. Her spirit flows throughout her school, mixing with the smell of jasmine, olive trees and decorated by the ring of children's laughter. She is indeed the protector of her mansion and a model landlady of a school striving for perfection under the supervision of a perfect principal.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 6

9:10 Sherlock Holmes
Silver Blaze

A famous winning horse disappears. But the kidnapper gets killed, leaving no clues for Holmes.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

Friday, Sept. 7

9:10 Midnight Caller
Ethan's Call

The kid Ethan was the cause of his daddy's death, Jack wants to help him out of this ordeal but Ethan's mother votes against Jack's help and makes things difficult for all.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Tanamera
Lion of Singapore

Singapore 1935 — Johnny Dexter goes back to Singapore. He and his family go into a business partnership with a Japanese family. Johnny falls in love with the Japanese partner's daughter and trouble begins.

Saturday, Sept. 8

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film
High Desert Kill
Starring: Chuck Connors, Deborah Anne Cathlyn

Four men are out in the desert on a hunting trip; suddenly a series of mysterious events begin to take place and the hunters become the hunted by a ghost.

Sunday, Sept. 9

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News in English

10:20 This Air

When Rachel gets appointed to her new job, she immediately sets out to investigate the murder of her predecessor. Meanwhile, another murder is committed.

Monday, Sept. 10

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Mr. Jonathan was shot dead in his sleep. He must have known something about the murderer's plot to get rich fast.

10:00 News in English

10:20 BL Striker
Blind Chess

Tuesday, Sept. 11

9:10 End of an Empire
Aden

In the mid-60's, Nasser's

revolutionary rhetoric was instrumental in igniting the revolution in Yemen, thus ending British rule after 120 years.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Martin Luther King

Wednesday, Sept. 12

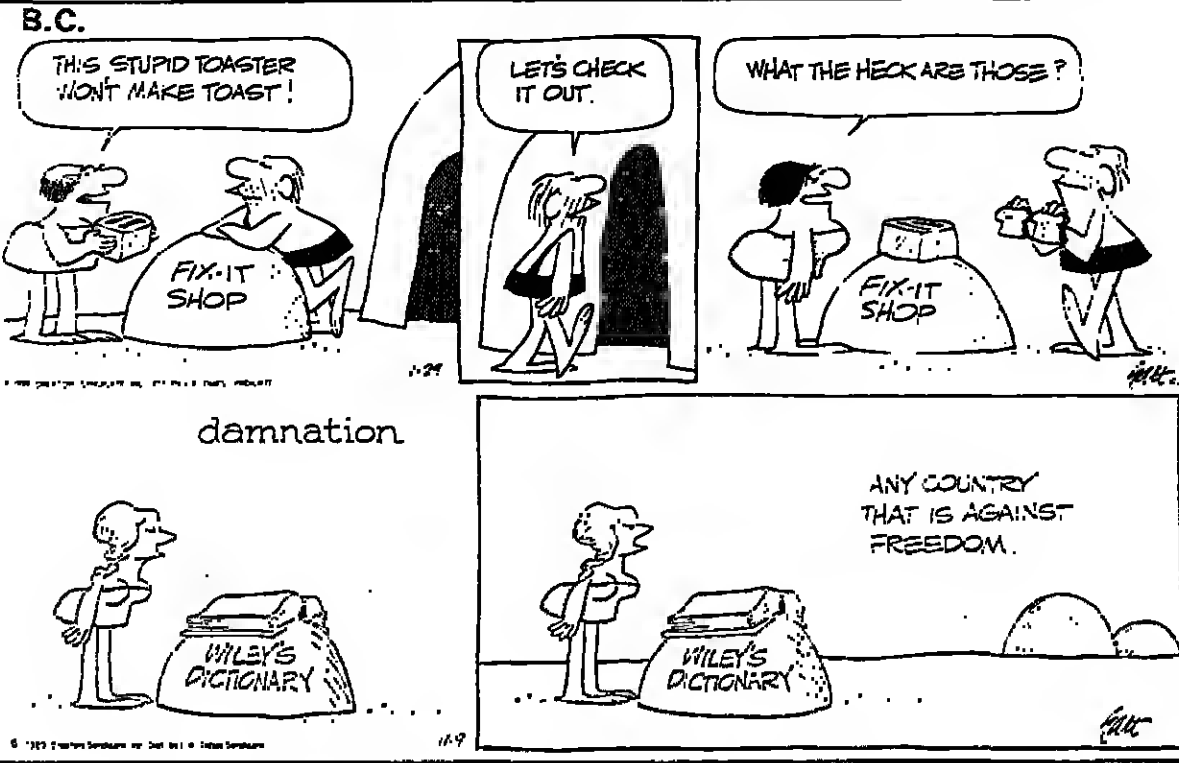
9:10 Documentary
Ivory Wars

Within the last 15 years, the ivory trade has finished off more than a million elephants. But luckily, different institutions and the U.N. decided to protect the elephant.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Never Come Back

Desmond is befriended by someone who tries to retrieve the dead woman's diaries from him. Desmond runs away and is offered help by a nurse.



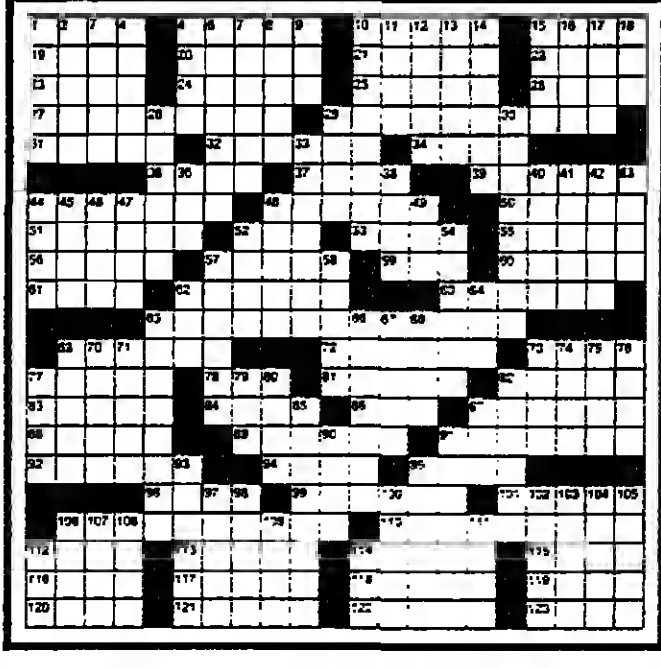
Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkenson

QUITE WEARING

By Olive Dean

1 Across: 1. A person who is very old. 2. A person who is very old. 3. A person who is very old. 4. A person who is very old. 5. A person who is very old. 6. A person who is very old. 7. A person who is very old. 8. A person who is very old. 9. A person who is very old. 10. A person who is very old. 11. A person who is very old. 12. A person who is very old. 13. A person who is very old. 14. A person who is very old. 15. A person who is very old. 16. A person who is very old. 17. A person who is very old. 18. A person who is very old. 19. A person who is very old. 20. A person who is very old. 21. A person who is very old. 22. A person who is very old. 23. A person who is very old. 24. A person who is very old. 25. A person who is very old. 26. A person who is very old. 27. A person who is very old. 28. A person who is very old. 29. A person who is very old. 30. A person who is very old. 31. A person who is very old. 32. A person who is very old. 33. A person who is very old. 34. A person who is very old. 35. A person who is very old. 36. A person who is very old. 37. A person who is very old. 38. A person who is very old. 39. A person who is very old. 40. A person who is very old. 41. A person who is very old. 42. A person who is very old. 43. A person who is very old. 44. A person who is very old. 45. A person who is very old. 46. A person who is very old. 47. A person who is very old. 48. A person who is very old. 49. A person who is very old. 50. A person who is very old. 51. A person who is very old. 52. A person who is very old. 53. A person who is very old. 54. A person who is very old. 55. A person who is very old. 56. A person who is very old. 57. A person who is very old. 58. A person who is very old. 59. A person who is very old. 60. A person who is very old. 61. A person who is very old. 62. A person who is very old. 63. A person who is very old. 64. A person who is very old. 65. A person who is very old. 66. A person who is very old. 67. A person who is very old. 68. A person who is very old. 69. A person who is very old. 70. A person who is very old. 71. A person who is very old. 72. A person who is very old. 73. A person who is very old. 74. A person who is very old. 75. A person who is very old. 76. A person who is very old. 77. A person who is very old. 78. A person who is very old. 79. A person who is very old. 80. A person who is very old. 81. A person who is very old. 82. A person who is very old. 83. A person who is very old. 84. A person who is very old. 85. A person who is very old. 86. A person who is very old. 87. A person who is very old. 88. A person who is very old. 89. A person who is very old. 90. A person who is very old. 91. A person who is very old. 92. A person who is very old. 93. A person who is very old. 94. A person who is very old. 95. A person who is very old. 96. A person who is very old. 97. A person who is very old. 98. A person who is very old. 99. A person who is very old. 100. A person who is very old.

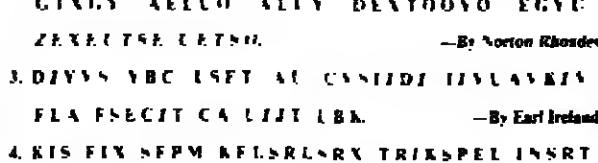


CRYPTOGRAMS

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Thursday, Sept. 6

1620 — Pilgrims sail on the Mayflower from Plymouth, England, to settle in the new world.

1688 — Turks lose Belgrade to Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, whose forces subsequently occupy Bosnia, Serbia and Wallachia.

1715 — Jacobite uprising known as "the fifteen" begins at Braemar in Scotland.

1782 — Britain and France begin naval Battle of Cuddalore off Madras, India.

1813 — French under Michel Ney are defeated by Prussians at Dennewitz in Germany.

1955 — Anti-Greek riots break out at Istanbul and Izmir in Turkey.

1965 — India invades West Pakistan and bombs city of Lahore.

1966 — Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd of South Africa is stabbed to death during parliament session in Cape Town.

1975 — More than 2,300 people are killed by earthquake in eastern Turkey.

1987 — Chadian troops strike into Libyan territory for first time and claim to have annihilated a military air-ground complex.

1988 — Iraq government declares amnesty for anti-government Kurds.

1989 — Cuban airliner crashes into suburb on takeoff from Havana, killing 170 people.

Friday, Sept. 7

1599 — Britain's Earl of Essex signs truce with Irish rebel Tyrone.

1701 — Treaty of the Hague, known as the Grand Alliance,

is signed, whereby Britain, Holland and Holy Roman Empire ally against France.

1714 — France signs Peace of Baden with Holy Roman Empire, whereby France keeps Alsace and Strasbourg.

1764 — Stanislaus Poniatowski, protege of Russia, is elected king of Poland.

1812 — Russians begin retreat after defeat by French at Borodino and begin to abandon Moscow.

1822 — Brazil proclaims independence from Portugal.

1848 — Serfdom is abolished in Austria.

1901 — Peace of Peking ends Boxer Rebellion in China.

1931 — Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi attends second India roundtable conference in London which fails to reach agreement on representation of religious minorities.

1939 — German army overruns Pomerania and Silesia in Poland.

1945 — U.S. President Harry Truman, at end of World War II, receives surrender paper signed by Japanese aboard U.S. battleship Missouri.

1962 — Laos established diplomatic relations with China and North Vietnam; French President Charles de Gaulle arrives in Hamburg and proposes closer ties between French and German armed forces.

1986 — U.S. reporter Nicholas Daniloff is charged with espionage in legal proceeding at Moscow prison.

1987 — West German engineer Alfred Schmidt is released by Shi'ite Muslim kidnappers in Beirut, Lebanon, after seven months as captive.

1988 — Growing unrest prompts several foreign countries to order families of diplomats evacuated from Burma.

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James Bond — a figure every man would like to be

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — Secret agent James Bond is in a fix. Will he stage one of his stunning escapes and get out of it with his customary panache? Hard to tell, because this time the crisis is for real: the superhero is getting old.

The artful master-spy, star of 16 of the most successful films ever made in Britain, is running out of steam. Although his thrillers cost millions to make and earn millions around the world, agent 007 may soon retire.

Albert R. Broccoli, who has produced the entire Bond series over the past 28 years, has another big movie in the works for the end of the year. Yet it may be the last because he is talking about selling his rights to author Ian Fleming's creation.

Broccoli (A.K.A. "Cubby") who owns a Swiss company called Danjaq, which in turn owns Eon Productions, has been talking with the movie giant MGM/United Artists about selling the Bond rights worth some \$180 million.

It would be premature, however, to write off the die-hard, high-living hero who has been portrayed on the screen by Sean Connery, George

Lazenby, Roger Moore and now, Timothy Dalton. Even if the upcoming, and as yet untitled, Bond epic is the last one, television, video and cinema revivals are likely to keep Bond alive for decades to come.

No matter who your favourite actor is or what film scored highest in your book, the movies had something for everyone, and Bond has thrilled audiences all over the world. Presenting a potent blend of steamy romance, fast dialogue, breath-taking stunts and fantastic special-effects, Bond has been the most popular, and most imitated secret-agent hero in history.

In the first attempts to cast James Bond, several major stars of the silver screen were offered the part. Both Cary Grant and James Mason had agreed in principle to star in the first movie, Dr. No. But Grant would commit himself only to one picture, and Mason only to two, so Connery, who was willing to sign a multi-picture deal, got the part.

Dr. No was released in 1962, starring Connery alongside Ursula Andress as the alluring Honey, Joseph Wiseman as the villain of the title, and Lois Maxwell as the long-suffering but ever-efficient

Miss Moneybags. Then followed From Russia With Love, Goldfinger, Thunderball and You Only Live Twice.

Some think Connery was the best James Bond, with his strong muscular presence and that unmistakable curling eyebrow that became the trademark of his witty sarcasm and devil-may-care attitude to women, bullets and other perils.

Others fall for Roger Moore, the handsome, suave hero who never loses his cool, even when faced with the worst villains. Heart-throb Moore, the hero of the hugely popular British detective television series The Saint, first stepped into Bond's shoes in Live and Let Die and acted in six other features, notably Octopussy, and A View To A Kill.

George Lazenby was a short-lived Bond. After just one film, On Her Majesty's Secret Service, the producers ruled that his image and acting were not right for the part. Lazenby starred alongside the fiery Diana Rigg. Not least among the ill-fated actor's problems was the leading lady's complaint of heavy garlic odor on his breath during their more intimate scenes. Connery was per-

suaded back for one more film in 1971 Diamonds Are Forever.

Opinions are divided over the current Bond, Timothy Dalton, who will act in at least one more blockbuster. A classically-trained stage actor, who worked for several years with Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company, and London's Old Vic theatre, seemed an unlikely choice. But Dalton's chiselled features have stirred — though perhaps not shaken — female viewers around the world. Some critics charge that he lacks the sparkle and wit to match the magnetism of the role. Nevertheless, The Living Daylights and Licence to Kill with Dalton starring were both box-office record breakers.

From the very start, the Bond movies were such a commercial success, and so critic-proof, that those associated with them could afford to be almost as candid as they liked with the press. "I'd like to kill that damned James Bond," Connery once said.

Although sophisticated weapons and guns feature lavishly in the movies, Roger Moore once admitted: "I don't like guns. I don't like what they do to people nor the violence they represent."

The risk of shattering the magic appeal of larger-than-life agent 007 did not seem to worry Moore. "There is no such thing as a spy who can walk anywhere in the world and every bartender recognises him and says 'Ah! Mr. Bond! A vodka martini, shaken not stirred,' Spies aren't like that," he said, adding: "I don't believe in that sort of hero. Heroes to me are policemen and firemen."

Nevertheless, James Bond remains one of the most popular fiction characters of our time. Whether Fleming knew he was going to give birth to a legend when he sat down at his typewriter in 1952 in Gold-deye, his Jamaica holiday home, is unlikely. The British writer, who died in 1964 before many of the Bond movies were made, once struck a personal note saying: "I wrote Bond as an antidote to my hysterical alarm at facing up to marriage for the first time at 43." In two months, he turned out Bond's first adventure: Casino Royale.

"I went into writing like a blind man," Fleming added. Formerly a banker and a career journalist, he kept his head down and reportedly did not want to read-over his own text which he described as

"rubbish, piffle." Fleming bashed out the words, page after page, which resulted in "a fast narrative speed, which is what I was aiming at. I just let it zip on — in the same way as Bond went about life. Very fast."

Fleming's 13 action-packed novels sold over 18 million copies world-wide and were translated into 11 languages. His bestselling prose won critical literary acclaim, and the praise of two great writers of the spy genre, Len Deighton and John Le Carre.

Bond, the master of espionage, intrigue and hair-breadth escapes, the handsome, clever playboy hero with a propensity for fast cars, gambling and beautiful women became an instant cult figure in the late 1950s and 60s. The first Bond movie spawned a plethora of "Special Agent" products, from 007 shirts, to suits, ties, cologne and yes... vodka. Britain's "Films and Filming" magazine once pointed out that "James Bond is not just a screen hero. He's an institution and as such, has influenced world affairs, art, music, motion pictures and fashion."

An estimated 2 billion people have seen the 16 Bond



Sean Connery — the actor who is widely regarded as the best James Bond.

movies, and they have yet to be screened in the populous Soviet Union and China.

Said Timothy Dalton: "I see James Bond as a very human character in a series of tense situations. He's not a superhero, he's a real man... a tarnished knight facing moral

confusions, yet with an ability to survive all the challenges that are thrown at him."

In Sean Connery's words, "James Bond is the invincible figure every man would like to be and every woman is excited by, and is everyone's survival symbol." — World News Link.

Hollywood of the Middle East suffering from latest Gulf crisis

By Dalia Baligh
Associated Press

CAIRO — The latest Gulf crisis has ravaged the Hollywood of the Middle East, depriving Egypt's film industry of the Kuwait money that keeps the reels turning.

Producers, actors and directors in the region's largest film industry watch with worry as each day of occupation costs them thousands of dollars in lost ticket revenues and financial backing.

And next to suffer may be the movie-going public. "For Arabs, Egyptian films are the main source of entertainment," said Mounib Shafie, chairman of the Egyptian Chamber for Movie Industries. And this crisis "has caused severe problems for our industry."

Egyptian studios have the centre of Arabic moviemaking for six decades and produce an average of 60 films annually. About 80 per cent of foreign financial backing for the films comes from the Arab oil states of the Gulf, mainly Kuwait.

Before Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, that small state was the main distribution centre for the Gulf, which under the Egyptian industry's production system meant they also were co-producers.

Before production, Kuwaiti entrepreneurs bought distribution rights to an Egyptian film. The Egyptian filmmaker then used that money to help produce his film, which the Kuwaiti backers subsequently distributed under a leasing arrangement with exhibitors in neighbouring states.

"It's a unique situation. The distributor is effectively a co-producer," said Mustafa Gamal-Al-Din, a director. Gulf distributors financed a third and sometimes up to three-fourths of a film's production costs, he said.

Egyptian films typically feature maudlin love stories, far-fetched intrigue and psychology-book treatment of social problems. They're great favourites in the Gulf states, especially among women who rarely leave their houses because of strict rules and searing heat.

Outside of Egypt, Gulf states account for 80 per cent of Egyptian-made movie sales in the Arab region, "and for the Gulf area, Kuwait was the

boss," said Shafie. He said three of four films that were being wrapped up when Iraq invaded Kuwait would be finished, although with financial difficulty. Otherwise, he said, all plans for new films are on hold.

No figures have been compiled on how much the film industry stands to lose. "We no longer have any contact with our Kuwait distributors," Shafie said in an interview. "They owe us money, and we owe them distribution rights. And in Saudi Arabia, they're worrying about whether they will have a war on their lands, not about films."

By standards of the industry abroad, where a \$10-million movie is a cheapie, Egyptian balance-sheet figures are minuscule. Shafie said producing a film costs between \$40,000 and \$160,000.

The Egyptian cinema also depends on the Gulf for its profits, which are low at home because of high advertising costs and tickets too expensive for many Egyptians. Additionally, there is no effective law regulating video distribution, leaving the field open to video pirates.

Egyptian films normally earn \$20,000 in each Gulf country, with total foreign distribution sales sometimes reaching as much as \$100,000.

By comparison, a film sold in Iraq earns \$12,000 to \$20,000, Shafie said, and the Iraqis have been known to take up to four years to pay up.

"A number of people have come out and said one solution to the loss of Gulf money is for actors to take salary cuts. But I think that's a very bad idea," Gamal Al Din said.

Egyptian movie stars are vastly underpaid compared to their counterparts in the United States. But in a country where the average wage earner takes home less than 1,000 a year, they don't do badly. Comedian Adel Imam is in a class of his own, reportedly pocketing close to 150,000 per film. Otherwise, the top actors and actresses earn \$11,000 to \$60,000 a film.

Some Egyptian movies are shot in a month, but better ones with the highest-paid stars take up to six months to make.

Look out Hollywood, here comes Australia's Cade County

By Wilson Da Silva
Reuters

CADE COUNTY, Queensland — When big-time international directors plan their next film, Greg Coote wants them to think of Australia's Cade County studios.

Wim Wenders did. The German director of the cult classic Paris, Texas began shooting his big-budget film Until the End of the World here in July. It stars William Hurt and Sam Neill.

Situated in Cade County, Queensland, the studios are a 125 million dollar (\$99 million) attempt to cut into the

market for major feature films, long dominated by studios in Los Angeles and London.

Located 20 kilometres from the sub-tropical coastal resort city of Gold Coast, the studio will offer facilities to match the world's major film centres, said coote, president of Warner-Roadshow Studios.

"Once you're on the sound stage you could be in any of the major studios of the World," he told Reuters. "We've got wonderful weather, a resort nearby and we're 30 to 50 per cent cheaper than studios in the United States."

Partners in the studio are

Time Warner Inc of the United States, Village Roadshow Ltd and Pivot Group Ltd of Australia, which own a third of the venture.

Stage five of the complex, to be completed in September, will offer 2,072 square metres (22,300 square feet) of floor space, which studio manager Michael Lake says matches Lodon's Pinewood Studios. Films shot at Pinewood include many of the James Bond epics and George Lucas' Star Wars.

It will be the last and largest of the five stages at the complex.

Lake said the recent in-

crease in productions at the Australian studio reminds him of the early years of this century when film companies left studios in New York for the sunshine of Los Angeles.

"The partners are very confident of attracting productions to Australia," he said. "I believe this area will become one of the production centres of the world."

"You can build the biggest of sets in these stages, facilities nearby are very good and there's a tremendous range of locations. It's just a very pleasant place to make pictures."

Shot here for the U.S. ABC

Television Network was Dolphin Cove and the modern version of the popular 1960s series Mission Impossible, both shown widely in North America.

Last year the major Australian feature Blood Oath, soon to be released internationally, was filmed here. An American science fiction series for the U.S. CBC Network, E.A.R.T.H. Force, began production in August, starring Gil Gerard of Buck Rogers fame.

Also under construction on the 162-hectare (400-acre) site is a theme park modelled on

the successful Universal Studios complex in the United States. It will be run by Pivot, which operates the nearby Seaworld Park and will offer some facilities as sets.

Coote is based in Hollywood, where the studio will begin a major push later this year to attract big-budget feature films. He said the Gold Coast, with its beachside high-rises, and opulent lifestyle, could quickly rival California's Beverly Hills.

"If all of the projects we're discussing come off, we won't be able to handle it," Coote said.

Western musicians court Japanese fans

By Janice Fuhrman
Associated Press

TOKYO — It's a performer's dream: Adoring audiences, full houses, high ticket prices, potentially huge record sales.

And for many of the world's hottest musicians, Japan is the best place to be. Whether it's rock, classical or jazz, Japan has become a must stop — often the first stop — for traveling bands.

Madonna kicked off her 1990 world tour, "blond ambition," with a seven-concert tour of Japan beginning April 13, then went back to the United States and on to Europe.

Other pop performers who played for Japanese audiences

in the first half of 1990 include Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Tracy Chapman, Bobby McFerrin and David Bowie.

"The money (in Japan) is certainly a factor," said Liz Rosenberg, a publicist for Warner Bros. Records. "Tour sponsorship in Japan is on a much bigger scale than in other parts of the world. Financially, it's very worthwhile."

Although Rosenberg wouldn't say how worthwhile, fans paid about \$4.5 million to attend Madonna's first three concerts in Tokyo alone. There was no indication how much went to Madonna and how much to local organisers.

The singer's flashy outdoor shows in Tokyo, featuring loud music and energetic dancing on a brightly lit stage, drew about 35,000 young fans who screamed and cheered despite driving rains.

Rock stars perform in huge stadiums, packing in tens of thousands. Classical music concerts are much smaller.

But while Madonna's top ticket price was about \$50, good seats for the Chicago Symphony in Tokyo ran as high as \$168 each.

For classical music lovers, the Chicago Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra and the London Symphony with Leonard Bernstein conducting have all made recent tours of Japan.

Many of the orchestral world's top batons are enthusiastic about the Japanese music consumer.

St. Louis Symphony conductor Leonard Slatkin finds Japanese audiences "quiet, polite and appreciative."

"European audiences often take the music for granted. Japanese never do," said Christoph von Dohnanyi, the conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, which toured Japan for two weeks in May.

No other audiences buy records like the Japanese do either. Henry Fogel, executive director of the Chicago Symphony, says that among the three largest record markets in the world — Europe, the United States and Japan

— the orchestra's royalty payments are highest from Japan.

Fees paid to the orchestra by musical presenter Kajimoto Concert Management Co. are about twice what the Chicago Symphony gets when it tours European capitals, but costs are higher in Japan too, says Fogel. Sponsorship from Motorola, Inc., and Kajimoto's fee just covered the \$2.1-million cost of the orchestra's three-week Japan tour last April. "We'll break even," Fogel says.

Japan is also home to some well-known festivals that attract the giants of jazz. This summer's Mount Fuji Jazz Festival featured Wynton Marsalis and Dizzy Gillespie. Another festival outside

Tokyo, "select live under the sky," will feature Pat Metheny, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Jack DeJohnette.

Japanese jazz fans will pay \$270 a ticket to see Miles Davis this month.

Jazz has been popular in Japan since it was introduced by U.S. occupation forces after World War II. U.S. jazz labels such as Blue Note have said they were able to remain in business during slumps in jazz's popularity in the United States because of continuing support in Japan.

Japan is the second largest jazz market after the United States, and jazz music sales here total about \$66 million a year.

Queen of Brazilian TV taking her act overseas

By Tova Chapoval
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO — Hundreds of little girls wearing mini-skirts, black leather boots and bright red lipstick

crowd the front of a television studio in Rio de Janeiro, screaming "Xuxa, Xuxa."

Inside the studio, a tall, slender blonde wearing a sequined white jacket, mini-skirt and black leather boots, accompanied by several adolescent look-alikes, is singing and dancing, mobbed by dozens of children.

The scene looks more like a rock concert than a children's show. But the star is named Xuxa (pronounced Shu-sha), and at 27 she is the undisputed queen of Brazilian television.

Maria da Graça Meneghel, or Xuxa as she was nicknamed by her brother when she was a baby, first made headlines as

the girlfriend of soccer star Pele. Last year she had a much-publicised romance with another famous Brazilian sports figure, Formula one Driver Ayrton Senna.

Now the host of a daily five-hour television show, watched as eagerly by children's mothers as by the children themselves, the former model has reached heights she never dreamed possible, she told Reuters in an interview.

This month she finished recording her fifth album in Portuguese — her four previous ones have sold more than 12 million copies. Her recently released third film is playing to packed audiences and she will soon start filming a new movie.

Now that Xuxa has conquered the hearts of millions of Brazilian children, she is preparing to take her act abroad.

Her first album in Spanish, released five months ago, has sold 500,000 copies in Chile, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Miami. In the coming months Xuxa plans to launch her album in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Venezuela, Peru and Argentina. A second album in Spanish is already planned.

Xuxa is also considering an offer to host a Mexican Children's television programme. But she says she will accept only if she can continue to work on Brazilian television as she is determined not to abandon "the little ones."

The secret of Xuxa's success lies not just in her beauty, her singing and dancing, but in a short, dark woman named Marlene Mattos, known as "the owner of Xuxa."

Mattos is her business manager, administrator, and confidant. She also supervises the taping of Xuxa's show.

Mattos has built a Xuxa empire, made up of four separate businesses that include tourism and records. She oversees the licensing of more than 40 Xuxa products, ranging from yogurt to comic books to toys.

Xuxa says she would not do the show if Mattos left. "We balance each other out," she says. "I am imagination, she is logic. I am fantasy, she is reality."

Not everyone is happy about the power Xuxa holds over Brazilian children and in particular over little girls, who imitate Xuxa in the way she dresses and in the make-up she uses. Critics say the children are putting childhood behind them too quickly.

"The make-up is a part of her fantasy," says Xuxa. "They are not growing up too fast. They are just playing."

Overall, Xuxa believes she sets a good example for children. "I am a person who doesn't smoke or drink or snort (cocaine)... the children who follow me will be winners too."

Xuxa says she doesn't know what appeal she holds for children.

Maybe it's because she was "a pioneer in children's television," she says. "There was no show like mine before..."

Those who worked with children were afraid to put the children close to them. I wasn't... I play with them," she says.

During her show, which started in 1986, Xuxa is surrounded by children, who have a chance to sing and dance with their idol. In between scenes she accepts roses and kisses from the children. Xuxa promises that she will

always work with children. "I owe everything to the children... It would be very mean of me to desert the children now to work for adults, who didn't respect me in the beginning like the children did."

Xuxa's commitment to children extends beyond entertainment. Last October, she opened up the Xuxa Meneghel Foundation in a mansion outside Rio. There, more than 200 children between the ages of three and 10 from poor families learn to read, swim and play. They also get medical care and meals.

The foundation, which employs over 30 workers, is financed entirely by Xuxa, who has plans to open another one.

Xuxa, who is single, says one of her dreams is to have two children of her own.

Need for repeat caesarean deliveries questioned

By Deborah Mescie
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A survey released recently casts new doubt on the old notion that women who have given birth by caesarean section must always deliver that way.

The survey of 2,213 physicians by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists found that 63 per cent of women who attempt vaginal delivery after a previous caesarean section succeed.

"Strides certainly have been made" to convince women and their physicians that vaginal deliveries are safe and successful alternatives to repeat caesareans, said Dr. Mary Jo O'Sullivan, secretary of the organization.

But she said since about 42 per cent of the patients in the survey chose to have another caesarean, "there is a need to further educate women" about the benefits of vaginal deliveries.

Vaginal deliveries are less risky than caesarean sections mainly because the latter is a surgical procedure, said O'Sullivan, associate chairwoman of obstetrics at the University of Miami in Florida.

Also, vaginal births are less expensive and the patient spends less time in the hospital — an average of \$4,334 and two or three days compared with \$7,186 and four or five days for a caesarean, according to 1989 data from the Health Insurance Association of America.

The rate of caesarean deliveries rose from 5.5 per cent of all U.S. births in 1970 to 24.7 per cent in 1989.

But O'Sullivan noted that

the increase from 1986-87 and from 1987-88 was 0.3 per cent, the smallest rise in five years.

Also, the rate of vaginal births after caesarean rose from 3.2 per cent in 1970 to 12.6 per cent in 1988, she said.

O'Sullivan said the rate of repeat caesareans appears to be tied to the age of the physician. Ninety-eight per cent of physicians under 40 said they encourage their caesarean patients to have vaginal deliveries for subsequent births, compared with 84 per cent of physicians over 55.

"It takes a long time to change your practice pattern," O'Sullivan said, noting that some smaller hospitals still do not offer the option of vaginal delivery to women with a previous caesarean.

As recently as 15 years ago vaginal birth after a caesarean was not considered good medicine in the United States, though a standard practice for years in many other countries.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the largest professional organization for physicians in those specialties, recommends that women who have had a low transverse incision in a previous delivery and have no medical complications should be encouraged to attempt labour and vaginal delivery in their current pregnancy.

A low transverse incision, which cuts into a non-contracting portion of the uterus, is most commonly used in caesareans today. It largely replaced what is called the classical incision in which the contracting muscles of the uterus are cut and are more likely to rupture in a subsequent labour.

Gallbladder removal avoids incision, speeds recovery

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Surgeons have started using a new way to remove a gallbladder. They pull it out through a hole smaller than a dime.

Patients can leave the hospital in a day or less, and return to work much faster than after standard surgery, surgeons say.

The new technique also saves money and hurts less, they say.

Surgeons are scrambling to learn the procedure, and they may use it for one fourth of gallbladder removals by 1992 and 75 per cent by 1994, predicted Kenneth Abramowitz, a health care market analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein and Co.

"Right now, patients are flocking to the physicians" to get the new operation, said Nashville, Tennessee, surgeon Douglas Olsen, a pioneer in the technique.

Gallbladder removal, used to treat gallstones, is one of the nation's most common surgical procedures, per-

formed more than 500,000 times a year.

A gallstone is a small, solid mass that sometimes forms in the gallbladder or bile ducts. It can obstruct the flow of bile, causing pain, jaundice and other symptoms.

The new procedure is called a laparoscopic or endoscopic cholecystectomy. As with a regular gallbladder removal, the patient is put under general anesthesia.

Standard surgery has then called for an incision of 10 to 15 centimetres in the abdomen, although recently some surgeons have reduced that to 5 to 8 centimetres, Olsen said.

Under the new procedure, instead of making an incision, the surgeon makes two quarter-inch (three-fifths of a centimetre) punctures and two half-inch (1.3 centimetre) punctures. One hole goes in or near the navel, one below the breastbone and two below the ribcage on the right side.

The surgeon slips surgical instruments into the body through sleeve-like tubes in the holes. One instrument contains a tiny video camera

so the surgeon can watch his progress on a screen.

Using the instruments, the surgeon grasps the bag-like gallbladder, cuts it free with a laser or electric cauterising device, and performs other follow-up procedures. Then he pulls the gallbladder out through the navel puncture.

Olsen said he usually concludes by putting a single stitch in the navel and a few absorbable stitches in the other puncture sites. Once the holes heal, they resemble minor skin blemishes rather than a surgical scar, so women "can still wear their bikinis," Olsen said.

The operation avoids the injury to muscle and associated tissues that comes from a standard incision, so recovery is quicker and less painful, surgeons say.

Rather than spending five to eight days in the hospital, most patients go home in a day or less, said Olsen. He said he does the surgery as an outpatient procedure. Some surgeons hospitalise the patient overnight.

And rather than waiting

four to six weeks to return to work, the average patient needs only five days to a week, Olsen said.

"I've had people go back to work the following day after their operation, and that's not unusual," said Olsen.

"Patients almost immediately feel their energy return" because the body needs not expend energy healing tissues from the standard surgical incision, said Minneapolis surgeon Leonard Schultz.

"This is a patient-led revolution in health care," Schultz said. Health insurance companies "are now being deluged by patients saying, 'I want this operation.'"

For his patients, insurance companies that require pre-surgical authorisation usually grant it for the new procedure, he said.

About half the United States' 74 independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans cover the procedure, said a spokeswoman for the National Association.

Some other insurance companies cover the procedure,

too, said Donald White, spokesman for the Health Insurance Association of America. "It is in fact a widely accepted technology."

Schultz said the cost of hospitalisation plus surgeon fees may come to about \$7,000, or about \$1,000 less than for standard gallbladder removal. The faster return to work also cuts disability payments, he said.

Some surgeons urge caution, however. Dr. Paul Ebert, director of the American College of Surgeons, said about one in 20 patients who go under anesthesia for the new surgery wake up to find the standard procedure was done instead.

That occurs when the surgeon discovers severe scarring or some other problem that rules out the new procedure.

The odds of an unexpected switch to standard surgery may decline as doctors learn to identify patients with such problems ahead of time, Ebert said.

He also said complications and long-term outcome form

the new procedure have not been documented, though initial indications suggest they will be about the same as with the standard procedure.

"The more of these I do, the more I realise there may be certain inherent problems of this operative procedure that still need some refinement," Schultz said. "I think we've made it 99 per cent safe. We've got 1 per cent to go."

Dr. Charles McSherry, a director of surgery at a New York medical centre recommended selecting a surgeon carefully, but acknowledged it is difficult for patients to get information about the skills of a particular surgeon.

While gallbladder removals have gotten much attention from surgeons and patients, the new technique has also been applied to other operations.

Gynecologists use it routinely for a number of procedures. Surgeons have also used the technique to remove the appendix and make hernia repairs.

Researcher isolates chemistry of social offence

WASHINGTON (AP) — That stench wafting from the sweaty and unwashed may be body odor to you. But to a Philadelphia chemist, it's the result of 3-methyl-2-hexenoic acid.

George Preti, a scientist at the Monell Chemical Senses Centre in Philadelphia, said Monday that he and his laboratory team have isolated and identified for the first time the chemical basis for underarm odor.

The 3-methyl-2-hexenoic acid was identified, Preti said, after collecting sweat from the underarms of a group of male volunteers who wore pads for 24 hours to absorb the stuff. He said the compounds on the pads were then chemically analysed.

"There were three dozen compounds isolated that can be odoriferous," said Preti. "We picked this one because it seemed to have the most odor, based on seven noses in the laboratory."

The compound was then synthesised and vials of the stuff were left on a bulletin board for the entertainment of passing noses. Most people agreed, he said, that 3-methyl-2-hexenoic acid was the genuine article — pure eau de locker room.

Preti said the compound has strange properties.

Some people, about 5 per cent of the population, he said, cannot even detect the odor. Others say it offends, but only faintly.

To Preti, however, 3-

methyl-2-hexenoic acid is the odor equivalent of a brass band, playing loudly right next door, and out of tune.

He waved a closed test tube of the compound through the air, made a face and noted, "I can smell it even when it's covered."

Preti said the chemistry that results in body odor starts with secretions from a gland called the apocrine. This gland is most common in the arm pit, but is also present in the groin and in the breast.

"Its only known purpose is apparently to create scent," said Preti.

Two types of skin bacteria that live in the armpit feast on the apocrine secretions and then give out several dozen compounds. One of them is

3-methyl-2-hexenoic acid.

Preti said that studies by dermatologists show that a microorganism called lipophilic diphtheroids produces "the strongest and most pungent odor."

About 90 per cent of all men have this bacteria in their armpits, but it is present in only about 67 per cent of women, he said. And women, he said, produce a milder underarm odor.

Knowing what causes underarm body odor eventually may lead to new products to help people avoid social offence.

Preti said fragrance manufacturers are interested in obtaining the 3-methyl-2-hexenoic formula.

Impoverished Zambia looks for cheap ways to fight AIDS

By Vanora Bennett
Reuters

LUSAKA — Drums roll and hundreds of ragged children of the Kaunda Square compound gather for the highlight of their week — a singing session on the dangers of AIDS.

"Young boy, young girl, don't drink and dance till you know what you're doing," they chant with gusto.

Shy younger brothers and sisters stand hesitantly watching from parched cornfields around the abandoned opera house Chikwakwa Theatre.

For Brian Njovu, a charismatic musician who leads the singing, meetings like this in impoverished Zambia are among the best ways of loosening the grip of acquired immune deficiency syndrome — AIDS which destroys the body's ability to fight disease. "There isn't enough room in the local school for all the children," he told Reuters. "Those who go to school learn about AIDS, but others at risk are being left out. Our aim is to teach everyone."

Nor has there been enough money to pay Njovu, whose weekday work is AIDS counselling at a non-governmental health centre, since late 1988. He and two colleagues say they are happy to continue the Saturday work as volunteers.

No-one knows how many Zambians have died from the disease, for which there is no known cure, or how fast it is spreading through a population of around eight million people burdened with the highest per capita foreign debt in the world.

Sources at Lusaka's University Teaching Hospital say they think about 22 per cent of Zambians carry the HIV virus which can eventually develop into AIDS. Official data show about 3,000 AIDS deaths, but doctors say the figure is probably higher.

AIDS in Africa is transmitted mainly through heterosexual sex and affects whole families rather than individuals, as in Western nations. The government, debilitated by debt, has little money to allocate to treatment.

A government document circulated this year to hospitals and doctors urged accurate diagnosis, saying "AIDS-specific mortality figures are hardly available as most AIDS patients who die are not registered as AIDS deaths."

Treatment for those recognised as AIDS sufferers is hard to come by as Zambia's few hospitals are overcrowded and poorly equipped. "Outside the hospital, I

looked back and had a feeling that the building had nothing more to offer me except maybe a small space in the mortuary," wrote Tari, a woman diagnosed HIV positive in 1986, in a privately-sponsored anti-AIDS pamphlet.

"Typically, by the time your disease is known, you are already ill," said one Lusaka doctor. "Full medical testing for apparently healthy people is a luxury we can't afford."

"A patient will go to hospital with, say, malaria, and won't respond to treatment. The doctor will change the treatment and the patient's health still won't pick up. These are the kinds of situations in which we test for AIDS."

The traditional extended family system, which used to ensure the sick were cared for at home, is disintegrating among the 55 per cent of Zambians who live in crowded cities and work in industry or mining.

But since late 1987, when President Kenneth Kaunda admitted publicly that one of his sons had died of AIDS, the government has conducted a vigorous campaign to make Zambians aware of the dangers.

Private and governmental organisations are concentrating on prevention, education and on organising care at home for those who already have AIDS.

"Careless sex can get you totally wasted before AIDS screams one Health Ministry poster, showing a picture of an emaciated woman clutching her clothes to a skeletal body."

Fears that AIDS could deplete the labour force has also spurred the government into action.

Evariste Njeselani, permanent secretary at the Health Ministry, told the Times of Zambia newspaper recently his ministry was discouraging employers from discriminating against AIDS sufferers.

"AIDS is depleting labour," he said. "It has been said that people affected with AIDS are between the ages of 20 and 35, in which groups are found most of the professionals working in companies."

"My impression is that among educated people habits are changing," a Lusaka doctor said. "In schools, where the education programme is very vigorous, we've seen few schoolgirl pregnancies in the last year."

"But among the uneducated, or high-density dwellers, I would say life goes on much as usual."

Inventor defends 'day-after' pill

By Clare Pedrick

PARIS — "Some people would love it to be something you take the day after, and you get rid of the problem, just like drinking a glass of water." Doctor Etienne-Emile Baulieu pauses to produce one of his winning smiles. "Unfortunately, it's not like that. There will always be a psychological factor when you terminate a pregnancy and there will always be physical risks. That is one of the reasons we insist that the drug is only administered under strict medical supervision."

Sun-tanned, a very young-looking 63-year-old with a genial, informal manner, Dr. Baulieu does not look like the devil incarnate. Yet that is exactly how his critics see him. As the inventor of RU 486, variously dubbed as the "day-after" and the "abortion" pill, the French biochemist has become the "bête noire" of the right-to-life lobby, even in countries where abortion is legal.

Controversy surrounding the pill has prevented it from being used outside France, but a recent announcement by the manufacturer Roussel-Uclaf revealed that the drug will be put on the market in Britain later this year, followed by Scandinavia and the Netherlands. The pill is currently being tested by researchers in the United States, but popular opposition is strong.

Sitting in his office in Paris' Bicetre Hospital, his desk strewn with papers and a bottle of cream-coloured pills in front of him, Dr. Baulieu quietly defends himself against his accusers. "I'm not a murderer. I have three children of my own and seven grandchildren," he said. "No-one likes abortion, but unfortunately, it will always be necessary because of imperfect contraception. If a woman decides not to have a child, whether she aborts with

RU 486, surgery or a coagulant, she'll do it."

The RU 486, says its inventor, offers a more acceptable way of ending a pregnancy, with less trauma and more dignity. Dr. Baulieu has no patience with the notion that women should suffer in order to have an abortion, nor does he accept that his pill will encourage promiscuity. "That is an insult to women," he retorts. "Do people really believe women will jump into bed at the click of a finger just because they know they have this drug?"

In countries where healthcare is lacking, claims the French biochemist, the RU 486 could prove a life-saving drug because it involves no surgery, and therefore no risk of infection. "As many as 200,000 women die of botched abortions each year, especially in countries where it is illegal and left to back-street abortionists," he says. "In Brazil alone, 4 million abortions are carried out each year, even though it is against the law."

"The RU 486 requires no hospitalisation and fewer doctors and nurses, so from an economic point of view, it could have great potential for developing countries," he adds. Admittedly that his pill should always be administered under medical supervision, however, the doctor does admit to having reservations about its use in certain countries. "We do not want to have some disaster which can be attributed to the RU 486, so we have to be prudent," he says. "Nevertheless, many distinguished gynecologists have said that introducing the pill even under the relatively poor conditions of some developing countries would still result in a drop in the number of deaths due to infections."

In China, the government has already approved the drug though Roussel-Uclaf has yet to give the go-ahead for its

production under licence. In France the pill is being used by 450 hospitals and clinics. So far, 35,000 women have opted for the RU 486 over surgical methods. According to a March report published by the respected New England Journal of Medicine, results show the treatment to be safe, effective and with few side-effects.

The RU 486 works by blocking the pregnancy hormone progesterone and preventing the fertilised egg from attaching itself to the uterus wall, or by detaching it if it's already in place. The pill is designed to be used as early as possible, and no later than 49 days after the last menstruation, a fact Dr. Baulieu says is of crucial importance.

"It means that pregnancy can be terminated much earlier than with the usual suction method," he notes. He believes it also confounds critics who accuse him of "killing babies."

"I resent it when people present the very early interruption of a pregnancy as killing a baby, morally or physically," he says, adding that since the RU 486 is administered so early in the pregnancy, in effect, it is mid-way between contraception and abortion. "Many methods of birth-control, including the contraceptive pill and the IUD (intra-uterine device) work largely by provoking a sort of hidden abortion. The RU 486 is not much different in that respect, and for that reason, it is religiously and mentally far more acceptable."

"Doctors in countries where abortion is banned have told me they believe that some governments may introduce it as a compromise. I have even had Muslim doctors tell me they would be prepared to use it, if it were administered very early."

Although not strictly speaking a contraceptive, RU 486 comes as one of the latest

additions to new methods available. Aside from the more traditional condom, pill, diaphragm and IUD, there are now injectable products as well as contraceptive implants, which grafted under the skin, release minute — and therefore less harmful — amounts of hormones into the body for up to seven years.

Much of the scientific world supports Dr. Baulieu's invention, but availability of the drug has been obstructed by the top echelons of the pharmaceutical industry, scared of tarnishing their image with such a controversial product. In France, the manufacturing company Roussel-Uclaf, for which Baulieu works as a consultant, actually withdrew the pill after its parent group, the West German giant Hoechst AG, expressed fears about boycotts of its other products. When the decision was announced nearly 18 months ago, Baulieu condemned it as "morally scandalous."

"A drug company cannot deprive people of a product," he says. Fortunately for him, France's Health Minister Claude Evain agreed. He ordered Roussel-Uclaf to make the drug available or pass on the patent to someone who would.

"I could not permit the abortion debate to deprive women of a product that represents medical progress," declared the French minister in what was seen as a milestone ruling. "From the moment government approval for the drug was granted, RU 486, became the moral property of women, not just the property of the drug company."

Although on a monthly retainer from Roussel-Uclaf, Dr. Baulieu owns no rights to the drug he invented, but many have predicted his discovery will earn him the Nobel Prize. Voices within the pharmaceutical world suggest that the pill will never be hugely profitable for Roussel-Uclaf,



Dr. Etienne-Emile Baulieu

since much of it would be sold at cost to the developing world.

In other countries too, Dr. Baulieu predicts the pill will be distributed through non-profit organisations such as Planned Parenthood. "It will help take the heat out of the anti-abortion movement," he said. "The organisations would buy it at minimal cost and then distribute it in their home countries. In America, for instance, many people are in favour of it, but the big pharmaceutical companies won't touch it because they are afraid of what it will do to their image."

At the Broussais Hospital, in the south of Paris, Dr. Elizabeth Aubeny heads a clinic which so far has treated 2,000 women with RU 486. Patients are given three of the pills and are told to come back 48 hours later for an injection of prostaglandin, which stimulates contractions of the uterus. Abortion, likened to a spontaneous miscarriage, follows usually within four hours, either at the clinic

or at home.

Dr. Aubeny claims she is impressed by the drug, but she is disturbed that many people wrongly believe it poses an easy option for women. "I've had visitors here from the U.S., Australia and all over Europe. A lot of them are surprised to see just how hard it is on the woman," said a French gynecologist who was the first to use RU 486 in France. "It is not like delivering yourself into the hands of a doctor and waking up when it is all over. It is the woman herself who takes the pill. She is fully conscious and knows exactly what is happening. Often the abortion happens at home and it is she who sees the product."

"I hope this pill will be made widely available abroad and I think it will," she added. "But only when people understand it doesn't trivialise abortion at all. On the contrary, it makes women take far more responsibility for terminating a pregnancy." — World News Link.



The influx of evacuees from Kuwait through Iraq into Jordan in the initial days after Baghdad opened the Iraqi-Jordanian border was not significant but it grew into alarming proportions. It is estimated that there are at least 75,000 Asian evacuees now awaiting passage home.

Evacuees pay the price for shortcomings at home

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Asian diplomatic missions have taken note of a Jordanian call for concerted action on their part to speed up the process of evacuating their nationals awaiting homeward passage in the Kingdom, but there appears to be little room for immediate measures until and unless their respective governments step in forcefully into the scene, according to relief officials and diplomats.

The main thrust of the Jordanian call, made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at a press conference Tuesday, was on Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, the Philippines and Thailand which represent an estimated total of 75,000 people in Jordanian territory.

All these countries have one thing in common. Thousands of their nationals are suffering the desert heat and miserable conditions at two camps near the Al Ruweished border post. The Jordanian government, whose infrastructure is stretched too thin because of the massive influx of evacuees, has said that it will allow people from the camps to Amman only if their respective missions clear the huge backlogs in the capital.

Food and water supply to the two camps at Al Ruweished is at the minimum, and no diplomatic mission is sending direct supplies to the camps. Some of them do send food and water, but the distribution is done by Jordanian

authorities. All reports indicated that many in the camps were literally starving and relief officials have said the situation was expected to improve by Wednesday.

Inquiries made by the Jordan Times with the respective diplomatic missions indicate the following situation:

Bangladesh:
Prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, about 70,000 Bangladeshis lived in Kuwait and another 15,000 in Iraq. About 6,000 of them left across the Kuwaiti-Saudi border and another 15,000 through Turkey.

According to Pranab Barua, an official at the honorary consulate of Bangladesh in Amman, an unknown number has also left through Iran. Tehran announced late last month that it was opening its border with Iraq for the evacuees (reports from the Gulf say that between 3,000 to 4,000 Bangladeshis have crossed through Iran, but this figure includes many who entered Turkey through Iraq and crossed the Turkish-Iranian border).

The Bangladesh government has appealed for international help to evacuate its nationals from Jordan and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) responded but within its limitation of a budget of \$1.7 million for airlifting Asian nationals. A total of 1,500 people have already been airlifted by the government of Bangladesh aboard the national carrier Biman, and 605 by the IOM (including

Wednesday's flights). In addition, 33 air tickets were provided by the European Community.

Barua said figures available with the consulate showed that 13,000 Bangladeshis are camped at the International Trade Fair centre at Marj Al Hammam and the Andalus College on the outskirts of Amman. Biman has started daily evacuation flights for 300, and the IOM has promised that it would give all possible priority to Bangladeshis in its airlift operations, Barua said. But he could not give any specific figure for the people expected to be airlifted by IOM. Biman will continue its daily flights each carrying 300 evacuees, Barua said.

According to the consulate official, about 5,000 to 6,000 Bangladeshis remain at the two desert camps near Al Ruweished, Shaalan One and Shaalan Two, where conditions are deteriorating every day. Food to the Bangladeshis are provided by various international agencies and Jordanian organisations, but no specific details are immediately available to the extent of this assistance. Reports indicate insufficient food and water supply at the two camps.

One Bangladeshi national died at one of the camps at Al Ruweished, and the body was flown home Tuesday. Another who was bitten by a snake at Marj Al Hammam is undergoing treatment in hospital, according to Barua.

Sri Lanka:
The country had around 100,000 of its nationals in Kuwait and Iraq prior to the invasion. Several hundreds have entered Saudi Arabia from Kuwait and Turkey through Iraq but the main avenue for the evacuees is Jordan.

According to Tamara Pereira, an official at the honorary consulate of Sri Lanka in Amman, the first evacuation flight of Sri Lankans began with an IOM-sponsored aircraft which took off Monday evening with 182 women and children, one month after the Iraqi move into Kuwait. Two other flights followed with 182 passengers each, Pereira said. Another 50 people have flown home at their own expense or under authorisation by the foreign ministry in Colombo, she added.

Bureaucracy in Colombo appears to be the major element in the protracted process of evacuating Sri Lankans from Jordan, according to some of the evacuees. "Our names and passport details are sent to Colombo, they verify it, contact our families who will pay our airfare and then tickets are issued to us in Amman," said one of the evacuees. "It is a long, time-consuming process."

Colombo has appealed for international assistance to fly home its nationals from Jordan, and hence the IOM response. Pereira told the Jordan Times that about 3,500 Sri Lankans remain in Amman, in addition to about 3,000 at the Shaalan One and Two camps

near Ruweished.

Food for the evacuees is being provided by various local and international organisations in addition to "Sri Lankan volunteers who are permanent residents of Jordan who have stepped forward to help their compatriots," Pereira said. Several senior officials from Colombo, including the minister of labour and foreign employment, are in the area and discussions on the evacuation process are continuing, according to Pereira. The minister left for Baghdad Wednesday and is expected back soon.

One Sri Lankan national, identified only as "Ranasinghe" — a common name in Sri Lanka — died at Al Ruweished. Cause for the death was unknown Wednesday.

Pakistan:

Over 90,000 Pakistanis lived in Kuwait and another 15,000 in Iraq prior to the Iraqi move into Kuwait. About 5,000 left through Saudi Arabia, and another 35,000 through Iraq to Turkey. Many are continuing their journey from Turkey through Iran in addition to hundreds crossing from Iraq to Iran.

According to embassy First Secretary Wahidul Hassan, about 2,200 Pakistanis remain in the Jordanian capital awaiting homeward flights. Another 2,000 are at the camps near Al Ruweished. Hassan said he expected to bring them to Amman Thursday.

The Pakistani International Airlines is operating three

flights every day, with a total lifting capacity of about 600. Pakistani also became the first Asian country to sealift evacuees when MV Hamas left Aqaba Wednesday morning carrying 1,665 people, raising to 8,602 the number of total Pakistani evacuees who left for home through Jordan.

Pakistani evacuees are accommodated at the Amman International Motor Show site on the road to airport. The embassy is providing them food.

All expenses of repatriation are borne by the government of Pakistan.

Islamabad has not appealed for international help to evacuate Pakistanis from Jordan.

India:

The 170,000 Indians living in Kuwait represented the second largest expatriate community in the emirate prior to the invasion. Another 10,000 lived in Iraq, mostly working for companies which had government contracts.

A total of about 35,000 Indians entered Jordan from Iraq since Aug. 6, and 14,000 of them were evacuated aboard special flights of Air India which began Aug. 13. At present Air India operates seven daily flights with a total capacity of 2,000 people in addition to two 174-seat Soviet Ilyushin aircraft chartered from Aeroflot which were expected to go into operation Wednesday.

A team of 12 diplomats have been flown in from New Delhi to assist the evacuation process and another 14 from Air India

are operating out of Amman. Over 5,500 of the total 35,000 were in Amman prior to Wednesday's flights, expected to take home about 2,000 people. Others remained at Shaalan One and Two.

According to Arun Kumar Goyal, chief of the evacuation operations at the Indian embassy, 3,000 Indians will be brought into Amman from the two camps daily. They will replace those flown out. Indians are being accommodated at hotels, apartment buildings as well as at the Marj Al Hammam fair grounds. Food is provided mostly by the Indian government, which on Tuesday sent in the first consignment of food supplies to be handed over to local authorities.

One Indian national, identified as Mohan Lal from the state of Madhya Pradesh, a mason working for an Indian company in Iraq, was found dead upon his arrival in Amman aboard a bus. Cause of death was not immediately known, pending results of an autopsy.

The Philippines:

About 40,000 Philippine nationals lived in Kuwait and another 10,000 in Iraq prior to the takeover of Kuwait by Iraq. Hundreds fled through Saudi Arabia while others reached Turkey through Iraq. No definite numbers are available. Many have also crossed over to Iran.

About 5,000 Philippine nationals are currently in Jordanian territory; 2,000 of

them in camps in and around Amman — at a building at the Third Circle (the old Telecommunications Corporation), the British Club, United Nations facilities, the Home of Peace, Caritas etc. — and the rest at the two camps at Al Ruweished, according to Ambassador Pacifico Castro. Food for the evacuees is provided by the government of the Philippines, which is also paying the air passage for them, Castro said.

Special flights of Philippine Airways have already flown home 3,129 evacuees. Almost daily flights of about 400 people are continuing.

Manila is hoping to arrange sealifts of its nationals from either Kuwait or one of the Iranian ports after its foreign minister, Raul Manglapus, visited Tehran and secured permission of Filipinos to cross from Iraq to Iran.

Thailand:

Over 6,000 Thais used to live in Kuwait and Iraq. Hundreds left through Saudi Arabia and others through Iraq to Turkey.

According to Honorary Consul Zuhair Asfour, 1,000 Thai nationals are at present in Amman and all of them will be evacuated by Sept. 9 aboard Thai Airways and a Royal Jordanian aircraft paid for by the government of Thailand. "There is no Thai national at the Ruweished camps," Asfour told the Jordan Times.

The government of Thailand has not appealed for international help to evacuate its nationals.

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Economy

Investors fear U.S. backlash against rising foreign capital

WASHINGTON (R) — International business groups see attempts in the U.S. Congress to control foreign investment as a sign of a mounting backlash against their role in the American economy.

The populist sentiment follows a huge surge in the past decade of foreign purchases of U.S. business and property.

Foreign investment has jumped by 636 per cent in 10 years — from \$89 billion in 1980 to \$401 billion currently.

As a result, Congress this year is likely to impose higher taxes and tougher reporting standards on foreign investors, said Bradley Larschan, an international lawyer.

"It is open season on foreign investors right now," said Larschan, who represents the Association for International Investment.

The group predicted that Capitol Hill fervor to control

foreign buyouts of U.S.-based firms would heat up even more in 1991, especially if trade relations with Japan deteriorated.

This year a record 21 bills involving foreign investment are before Congress. Moves to collect more taxes from foreign investors are expected to pass because members of Congress, faced with a huge U.S. budget deficit made worse by the Gulf crisis, need politically painless ways to raise money.

As one official at a European bank put it, "foreigners don't vote."

But such moves could backfire, said a New York investment banker. Protectionism discourages the European Community and Japan, both growing markets for U.S. goods, from dismantling their barriers to American investment, he said.

And the irony is, say the bills' opponents, that patriotic-sounding politicians rally against the

Analysts say crisis in Gulf could bankrupt Lebanon's ailing economy

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese economy, reeling after 15 years of civil war, could suffer another savage blow from the Gulf crisis, businessmen and economists say.

"The war has extensively damaged the economic infrastructure and the crisis could be the coup de grace," said economic expert Kamal Hamdan.

Economists say remittances from Lebanese expatriates, especially in the Gulf and Africa, were the main reason the economy survived the war which began in April 1975.

Tens of thousands of Lebanese in Gulf states send home an estimated \$2.5 billion a year, Hamdan said. "It is feared that if the Gulf crisis continues for long, then the remittances will largely stop."

Economist Marwan Iskandar said the situation had become disastrous after the crisis, which has prompted hundreds of

thousands of expatriates from dozens of countries to flee Iraq and Kuwait.

"The continuation of the dangerous situation in the Gulf will cause greater economic and social collapse in Lebanon," said a statement from the chamber of trade and commerce.

Lebanese exporters still able to function amid the chaos have lost half their markets in the Gulf and some business institutions were forced to close.

The crisis is the latest in a long series of bitter blows for a nation famed for its entrepreneurs and financiers.

Before 1975, Lebanon virtually monopolized the banking and services sectors in the Middle East. The lira was worth 2.5 to the dollar. This week it was 1,100.

A quarter of the estimated population of 3.5 million has emigrated since 1975, according to official estimates.

Japan to seek quick IMF, World Bank credits to Mideast

TOKYO (R) — Japan will ask the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to try to provide money quickly to Middle East countries hard hit by the Gulf crisis, finance ministry officials said.

They said the IMF and World Bank's normal loan-approval process is too slow for current circumstances.

"Quicker actions are needed on the part of the IMF and the World Bank, as well as industrial nations, to aid countries hit hard by the economic fallout of the Mideast crisis," one ministry official said.

Another finance ministry official pointed out that the IMF has

World's poor call for aid from dividend of detente

PARIS (R) — The world's poor urged the powerful Tuesday to use money saved from reduced East-West arms spending to help them out of poverty.

But speakers at a United Nations conference on the world's 41 least developed countries (LDCs) also voiced concern that the Gulf crisis would cut the "dividends of peace" emerging from detente between the superpowers.

"Despite the recent unfortunate conflict in the Middle East, such peace dividends on global dimension may yet expand resource availability for our purpose," President Hussaini Muhammad Ershad of Bangladesh, the most populous of the LDCs, told the meeting.

The United States has asked

Iran to stick to OPEC quota

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's oil minister said Tuesday his country would not increase oil production despite a call by Saudi Arabia to help in stabilizing the market.

"Iran will stick to its production quota (of 3.14 million barrels per day) set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries," Gholamreza Aqazadeh was quoted as saying by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

His remarks appeared to reject a call by Saudi Arabian King Fahd Sunday for other producers to follow the kingdom's example by boosting output to check soaring oil prices.

"Because of the current situation in the Gulf, oil prices will not come down," IRNA quoted Aqazadeh as saying at a news conference in Hamadan west of Iran.

Saudi sources said Sunday the kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, has boosted output by nearly 40 per cent to 7.4 million barrels per day to help compensate for Kuwait and Iraqi crude now banned by the United Nations.

Aqazadeh dismissed the Saudi move as a "psychological bid" to bring oil prices down.

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Greece shipping earnings shoot up

ATHENS (AP) — Total foreign exchange earnings from shipping in the first half of this year were \$819 million, or 24.7 per cent more than the \$656.7 million earned in the same period last year, the merchant marine ministry has said.

Foreign exchange from shipping totalled \$156 million in June, or 48.9 per cent above the \$104 million earned in the same month last year, the ministry said.

The announcement, carried by the semi-official Athens News Agency did not give any reasons for the increase. Greek shipowners have the world's largest merchant fleet in terms of tonnage, according to the authoritative Nafisiaki shipping review.

Ozal sees 10% growth this year

ANKARA (R) — President Turgut Ozal has predicted that Turkey's gross national product (GNP) would grow by about 10 per cent in 1990 after an eight-year low of 1.7 per cent last year, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said.

"Official forecasts for this year were 5.6 per cent. But it seems growth will be around 10 per cent with a 0.5 per cent margin up or down... I think this is the highest growth in recent years," Ozal told reporters during a trip to southeast Turkey.

Ozal was quoted as saying that in the first half of 1990 the growth rates for the industrial and agricultural sectors were 10 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

The adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on Turkey's economy had been taken into consideration in the forecasts, he said.

Turkey expects a better harvest in 1990 after a drought last year which forced it to import 4.6 million tonnes of wheat.

Official sources say they expect a wheat harvest of 18.5 million tonnes this year after 16.5 million tonnes last year.

More than half of Turkey's 55 million people are engaged in agriculture which has a share of around 18 per cent of GNP.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, September 5, 1990

Central Bank official rates

U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	French franc	125.1	125.9
Pound Sterling	658.0	662.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	462.1	464.9
Deutschemark	1247.9	1255.4	Dutch guilder	371.6	373.8
Swiss franc	418.9	421.4	Swedish crown	113.8	114.5
	305.9	306.9	Italian lira (for 100)	56.2	56.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	202.3	203.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8970/80	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1540/50	Canadian dollar	
	1.5670/80	Deutschemark	
	1.7660/70	Dutch guilder	
	1.2995/3005	Swiss francs	
	33.20/25	Belgian francs	
	5.2520/70	French francs	
	1167/1168	Italian lire	
	141.90/142.00	Japanese yen	
	5.7570/7630	Swedish crowns	
	6.0575/0635	Norwegian crowns	
	6.0070/0130	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	384.10/60	U.S. dollars	

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North, South Korea premiers disagree at unity conference

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korean prime ministers met Wednesday to pave the road to Korean unity but the session ended in a dead-end with each side's main proposals apparently unacceptable to the other.

While the disagreements inside Seoul's Intercontinental Hotel were diplomatic, outside North and South Korean reporters and police clashed as police hustled away slogan-shouting dissidents trying to unfurl a red banner.

South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon joined North Korean counterpart Yon Hyong-Muk for a one-hour, 53-minute session to present proposals to defuse tension on the divided peninsula and foster reunification of the Koreans.

Seoul officials and diplomats had cautioned against high expectations of substantive results from the talks, the highest level meeting between the two Koreas since the peninsula was divided in 1945.

They apparently have been proved correct.

Kang proposed the Koreans allow cross-border travel on ma-

jeon Korean holidays, restore communications and travel links, reunite families, reduce armed forces to equal levels, increase trade and economic cooperation and take other measures towards building mutual trust.

"If both societies open up to each other, engage in exchanges and cooperation and reduce tension to progressively develop social, cultural and economic communities, while resolving problems, conditions for political integration will ripen," he said.

But North Korea said "military and political confrontation" on the peninsula should be ended before all else.

Yon made three principal demands — that Seoul release three dissidents jailed for illegal trips to North Korea, end annual joint U.S.-South Korean military manoeuvres and share a single seat at the United Nations.

"Strictly speaking, there is no room for compromise on these issues," South Korean government spokesman Kim Hyong-Gi told reporters.

Yon, Kang and their six-member delegations met again

Thursday for a final session, but Kim told the press briefing: "The North Koreans are not likely to change their stance in tomorrow's session which will be held behind closed doors. If so, prospects for a fruitful outcome are dim."

Despite the disagreement on major issues, both sides appeared near agreement on lesser points such as establishing a top-level military hotline, ending their propaganda war and removing fortifications from the demilitarised zone separating the two states.

The 15-minute melee outside the Intercontinental Hotel was sparked by the police arrest of four university students who tried to unfurl a red banner.

About 40 North Korean reporters joined about 50 South Korean colleagues in scuffling with police who apparently blocked the journalists.

Police did allow a car to park across from the hotel blaring anti-North Korean slogans and advocating the invasion of the North to reunify the peninsula.

Witnesses said the car was apparently linked to a religious

group.

About 800 students at two Seoul universities clashed with police in protests demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and criticising what the students call the Seoul government's insincerity towards reunification.

Yon, six principal delegates, 33 other functionaries and 50 reporters, drove through the barbed wire, minefields and tank traps dividing North and South Korea Tuesday. The North Koreans return home Friday.

Yon and Kang shared a table Wednesday afternoon at a luxury hotel where they watched a 90-minute stage show of traditional Korean music and dance in a theatre normally featuring Western-style cabaret with topless dancers.

Some North Koreans applauded when a chorus sang "hand-in-hand," the theme song of the 1988 Seoul Olympics which Pyongyang boycotted.

The prime ministers were due to meet again in Pyongyang from Oct. 16 to 19 but final details have yet to be worked out.

Bus bomb kills 25 in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Suspected tribal militants exploded a time bomb in a state-owned bus in eastern India, killing 25 people and injuring 45 others, news reports said Wednesday.

Police blamed Tuesday's explosion in the tea-growing, oil-rich state of Assam on Bodo tribespeople, who are agitating for a separate state, the Times of India reported.

The Assam Transport Corporation bus was parked at the town of Rangia, 50 kilometres north of Guwahati, the state capital, when the bomb exploded, the newspaper said.

United News of India said 17 bodies were recovered from the bus and more people died on the way to a hospital. More deaths were likely because many of the injured were grievously wounded, it said.

On Tuesday night, the news agency said 13 people were killed and 31 injured.

Bodos, who are mostly animists, say they need their own state within the Indian union to protect their tribal culture from being overwhelmed by the Assamese, who are predominantly Hindus.

The Bodos claim about one-third of Assam as their homeland, from the Brahmaputra River to the kingdom of Bhutan.

Tribal leaders, state government officials and members of the federal government are scheduled to conduct talks on the demands next week.

The Times of India said Tuesday's explosion was an attempt by the Bodos to demonstrate militant capabilities and gain leverage at the talks.

Assam, which is about 1,400 kilometres east of New Delhi, produces about 60 per cent of India's tea and most of its crude oil.

Meanwhile in a separate development, at least six people were killed and 50 injured by police who opened fire on students protesting plans to give more government jobs to low-caste Hindus, news reports said Wednesday.

The violence raised to 14 the number of people killed in four weeks of street protests against the caste quota.

Also Wednesday, an alarmed administration cancelled services linking New Delhi with state capitals to avoid clashes and attacks on state-owned buses during a 50-hour strike beginning Thursday. The strike was called by students to protest Prime Minister V.P. Singh's proposal to reserve half of all government jobs for lower castes.

Thousands of passengers were stranded at New Delhi's inter-state bus terminus Wednesday. At least 25,000 people a day normally travel on buses from the station, the largest in India.

"There is a precautionary measure," said a transport official at the bus terminal. "We are running only those limited services which can return to the depot by this evening."

Police in Bihar, India's poorest state, opened fire Tuesday on students, killing at least six people and injuring 50 others, news reports said.

The Statesman newspaper said students set many cars on fire and attempted to storm the government secretariat in Patna, the capital of Bihar.

Cambodian rebel leaders to attend Jakarta talks

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and the son of the head of Cambodia's guerrilla coalition changed their minds during a night of intensive diplomacy and headed Wednesday for peace talks in Jakarta.

Khieu Samphan, head of the most powerful guerrilla group in Cambodia, was persuaded to attend the talks during extensive meetings with Thai Foreign Ministry officials and others, a source at the Foreign Ministry said.

Khieu Samphan had said Tuesday that no one from the Khmer Rouge, which governed Cambodia through terror from 1975 to 1979, would attend the talks because Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen was not going.

"We told him that the absence of the Khmer Rouge would destroy everything and finally he decided to go," the source said.

The son of non-Communist guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who had also said he would boycott the talks, spoke to Khieu Samphan by telephone Tuesday night and said he had changed his mind, a Khmer Rouge spokesman said.

Sihanouk's office here said Wednesday that Ranariddh was on his way from Singapore to Jakarta.

The Jakarta talks have been viewed as critical to efforts to bring peace to Cambodia after more than a decade of civil war. They follow the offering of a plan to end the fighting by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Diplomats here have been sceptical that the four Cambodia factions, even under strong international pressure, could agree on sharing power in a Supreme National Council, a key element of the U.N. plan.

But Kraissak Choonhavan, son and adviser to Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, said Wednesday he was confident that progress could be made even on this issue.

He spoke with Phnom Penh officials during the night and said they were no longer mentioning the Tokyo accords, an earlier formula for sharing power rejected by the Khmer Rouge.

"I will be very happy if they set up the Supreme National Council because in doing so they can shift fighting from the battlefield to the political arena," Kraissak said.

He said a delegation headed by Hor Nam Hong, the most senior Phnom Penh official dealing with foreign affairs after Hun Sen himself, had left for Ho Chi Minh City to catch a plane to Jakarta.

Hun Sen refused to go to Indonesia himself after Sihanouk delegated his son to look after the Sihanouk interests in Jakarta.

In a statement issued from his home in Peking, Sihanouk said that Son Sann, leader of another small non-Communist guerrilla army, was the prime minister of the coalition's government and equal in position to Hun Sen.

"Hun Sen should be satisfied to have his 'opposite' at the negotiating table, in Jakarta and elsewhere, His Excellency Son Sann," Sihanouk said.

Son Sann arrived in Jakarta Tuesday night.

Japanese firms announce new tiny TVs

TOKYO (R) — In the latest sign that tiny televisions are becoming increasingly popular, three companies have unveiled new colour TVs that will fit in your pocket and which go on sale next month. Demand for the televisions is growing at 10 to 30 per cent annually, with total production — almost entirely Japanese — expected to hit two million units in the year to next April, industry sources say. To stimulate demand as the year-end gift giving season approaches, companies are making LCD TVs easier to use and more attractive to look at. "People are beginning to see how they can use LCD TVs," said a spokesman for Casio, which says it supplies more than half the world market. Most are "box-type" models mounted in cars or put on desks. Smaller and lighter models which can be held in the hand provide a portable means of catching up on news or sports events and are next most popular. LCDs, short for liquid crystal displays, operate by passing electricity through liquid crystal sandwiched between pieces of glass. They use less energy than conventional cathode ray tubes and have flatter screens, making them attractive in portable devices.

Amnesty: Children tortured, killed in Brazil

LONDON (R) — Death squads are killing hundreds of street children in Brazil's cities, possibly at the rate of one a day, Amnesty International said Thursday.

Many more children, forced on to the streets to support their families, are being beaten and tortured by police, the London-based human rights group said.

"Poor children in Brazil are treated with contempt by the authorities, risking their lives simply by being on the streets," Amnesty said in a report.

Amnesty said death squads, some of them operated secretly by police, were killing children in order to "clean up the streets" or remove witnesses.

Brazilian human rights organisations believe that at least one child a day is killed by death squads, Amnesty said.

It quoted the Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Analysis as saying 457 young people, most with no criminal record, were killed by death

squads last year in three cities and the killings were continuing.

Amnesty said three boys arrested in Rio de Janeiro in August on suspicion of trying to break into a shop were subjected to Russian roulette — a torture in which the victim has a one-in-six chance of being shot dead from a revolver bearing a single bullet.

One of the boys, aged 31, was shot in the head and dumped outside a hotel by police. He later died in hospital.

Pretoria, ANC to go ahead with talks

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The government and the African National Congress will proceed with peace talks despite the army's involvement in a shooting that left 11 blacks dead, newspapers reported Wednesday.

The government and the country's leading opposition movement are scheduled Thursday to discuss details of the ANC's decision to suspend its armed struggle.

The talks are expected to focus on the status of ANC guerrillas, both inside and outside South Africa, as well as what to do with existing arms caches in the country, several newspapers reported.

ANC spokesmen were not immediately available for comment Wednesday.

While the government and the ANC have declared a ceasefire, ANC supporters have been battling blacks loyal to the conservative Inkatha Movement. More than 550 people have died in black-on-black violence in townships around Johannesburg since Aug. 12.

Forty blacks were killed in township clashes Tuesday, including 11 who died when soldiers fired on an angry crowd outside a migrants workers hostel in Sebokeng, south of Johannesburg. Many in the crowd were ANC supporters.

Police said the armed crowd of about 5,000 threw stones and refused to disperse, and one shot was fired before the soldiers responded.

However, Len Khumalo, a South African news photographer at the scene, said the crowd did not pose a threat to the soldiers.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela visited the site Tuesday afternoon and said there was "no reason whatsoever to use live bullets."

The ANC has repeatedly blamed Inkatha for the violence and accused police of siding with the Inkatha-based organisation.

Tuesday's shooting marked the first time in the recent fighting that troops have been involved in a clash that has resulted in a number of deaths.

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Pope calls for new era of solidarity with Africa

MOSHI, Tanzania (R) — Pope John Paul, ending a five-day visit to Tanzania, urged the developed world Wednesday to begin a new era of international solidarity to help Africa.

"Let the world not forget the urgent need of the people of Africa," he said of the world's poorest continent, also scarred by AIDS and civil wars.

"In the name of our common humanity, I appeal to the more developed nations of the Earth to inaugurate a new era of solidarity with Africa, based on justice and respect," the Pontiff said.

He made his appeal in a farewell address before leaving Tanzania for Burundi on the

second leg of a 10-day African tour.

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Mohawks seek guarantee before laying down arms

OKA, Quebec (AP) — Indian leaders said Tuesday that Mohawk Warriors surrounded by hundreds of troops on a settlement would not lay down their arms until they received a guarantee provincial police won't arrest them.

The Mohawks fear reprisals for the death of a police officer killed July 11 in a failed police attempt to remove barricades. The barriers were put up in a dispute over plans by Oka town officials to expand a golf course onto what the Indians say is tribal land, and the clash sparked a two-month armed standoff.

"I know they're after Mohawk blood," Mohawk Glenda Smith said, referring to the Quebec province.

About 20 members of the militant Mohawk Warrior Society, carrying automatic weapons and wearing bandannas over their faces, remain in foxholes surrounding a drug and alcohol detoxification centre. About 30 women and children are in the building.

The Statesman newspaper said students set many cars on fire and attempted to storm the government secretariat in Patna, the capital of Bihar.

The Mohawks retreated to the centre after troops moved into the Kahnawake settlement over the weekend to dismantle barricades set up by the Indians. They are surrounded by about 400 soldiers.

Earlier Tuesday, the army said it would block supplies of food and medicine until the Mohawks laid down their arms and left the centre. But several hours later the army reversed its decision.

"Orders were reversed due to the fact there are women and children," said Maj. Alain Tremblay.

In Ontario, Indians supporting the Mohawks tore down five Ontario hydro electric pylons early Tuesday near London. Elsewhere in the country, native groups blockaded highways.

Gordon Peters, of the native Chiefs of Ontario, urged natives to stage demonstrations and acts of peaceful resistance in support of the Mohawks.

Meanwhile, Indian leaders and federal officials offered various proposals for ending the standoff.

Art auction to benefit AIDS foundation

PARIS (AP) — AIDS research will get a boost from more than 200 prominent artists whose works go to the auction block here next month. The auction, to be held on Oct. 1 at the Drouot-Montaigne sale house off the Champs-Elysees and another at Drouot-Richelieu in central Paris on Oct. 5, features works by Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault, Christo, Antoni Tapes, Sol LeWitt, Robert Rauschenberg, Andre Brel, and many others.

Proceeds of the sale will go to the development of a private AIDS research foundation headed by Luc Montagnier, co-discoverer of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus. AIDS is a disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. The disease attacks the body's immune system.

Log of Red Baron's last battle to go on sale

LONDON (R) — A British airman's account of the shooting down of Germany's Red Baron flying ace in World War I is to be sold by London auction house Christie's next month. The log book, dated April 21, 1918 and belonging to Lieutenant Lionel Lomas of the Royal Flying Corps, tells how Baron Manfred von Richthofen was attacked by Canadian Captain Roy Brown. Lomas, who misspelled Richthofen's name, wrote in his log book: "Met 24 triplanes and Alberts scouts with 14 (sopwith) Camels. Three brought down by the formation. Capt. Brown shot down Baron von Richthofen." Since the death of Richthofen, who brought down 80 enemy aircraft during World War I, there has been debate about whether the kill was Brown's or whether the German ace was shot down by Australian soldiers on the ground. The seat of Richthofen's aircraft was presented to the Canadian military institute by Brown. The log is expected to fetch between £1,000 and £1,500 (\$1,850 and \$2,800) and could sell to a museum, a collector or a Richthofen enthusiast. "It's generated an awful lot of interest as an historical piece," a spokeswoman for Christie's said.

Garbo loved babies

NEW YORK (AP) — Greta Garbo may have been reserved around adults but she loved babies and spent hours cooing to each new addition to her family, says her grandniece Gray Horan.

"My mother said she came to visit all of us at the hospital when we were born," Horan wrote in an essay about her famous great-aunt in the New York Times magazine. "My son was not even a week old when she arranged to come out to see him." Horan, the executrix and sole beneficiary of Garbo's estate, said Garbo saw herself in the little boy and would hold him for hours. "I brought him to visit her one afternoon, and she said, 'somebody, you must tell him I gave him an entire bottle,'" Horan wrote.

Mass grave with 1,700 bodies found in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Investigators acting on a tip from a cemetery director have found a mass grave which could contain as many as 1,700 secretly buried bodies, Brazilian television reported.

An initial search turned up the bones of 87 people, all of whom had suffered violent deaths. Television pictures showed gravediggers hauling out blue plastic bags containing bones and skulls from a shallow trench on the edge of Perus Cemetery, about 70 kilometres east of Sao Paulo.

The report said the trench's size indicated at least 1,700 bodies were likely to have been dumped there.

There was no immediate word on who might be responsible for the murders, but police launched an immediate inquiry to try to identify the dead. They said the bones will be made available to anyone who believes they may have known a victim.

The reporter who covered the

grave story for Globo Television News, Caco Barcelos, said the find was made after the cemetery director, Antonio Pires Eustaquio, spoke out.

Eustaquio learned about the existence of the mass grave when he began the job in 1977 but was afraid to say anything.

"Cemetery workers say most of the bodies were brought here in the early 1970s," Barcelos told Reuters.

"They were first buried in marked graves under false names, then the bones were dug up again three years later and reburied in these plastic sacks in an unmarked trench."

Brazil emerged in 1985 from a 21-year military dictatorship during which thousands were tortured, imprisoned or exiled.

Repression reached a peak in Brazil in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the country's military rulers were fighting their own "dirty war" against urban guerrillas.

Film star Irene Dunne dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (R) — Irene Dunne, the husky-voiced heroine of more than 50 films in the 1930s and 1940s, died of kidney failure Tuesday after being bedridden for the past month, her business manager said, Dunne was 88.

One of the highest-paid Hollywood actresses at the height of her career, Dunne was nominated five times for an Oscar but never won the award.

She had been in ill health for a year and died peacefully at her home in the exclusive Holmby Hills area of Los Angeles, her business manager, John Larkin, said.

Dunne's daughter, Mary Griffin Gage, was with her when she died, Larkin said. "She had been in declining health for a year, but mentally she was as sharp as a tack," he said.

Actress Loretta Young visited her 20 minutes before she died, Larkin added.

An actress who never lost her sense of dignity and breeding, Dunne was equally at home in dramas, romantic films, melodramatic tearjerkers, musicals and farce.

She showed her fine sense of comedy timing in films such as My Favourite Wife and the Awful Truth.

"Cary Grant, my co-star in the Awful Truth, paid me one of the loveliest compliments of my life when he said I had the best timing of anyone he ever worked with," Dunne once said.

"Comedy always came extremely easy to me because it was never as satisfactory as my more serious roles."

She began her film career in Leatherstocking in 1930, and walked away from a still lucrative film career with It Grows On Trees in 1952.

She was nominated for Oscars for Cimarron, in 1931, Theodora Goes Wild, in 1936, the Awful Truth, the following year, Love Affair, in 1939, and I Remember Mama in 1948.

Her other films included Show Boat, Magnificent Obsession, the White Cliffs of Dover, Anna and the King of Siam, and the Mudlark.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Dunne trained as an opera singer and narrowly failed an audition at the New York Metropolitan Opera before she found consolation with a career in musical comedy.

She was encouraged in her singing and acting career by her husband, Dr. Francis Griffin who died in 1965. She was an astute businesswoman.

Dunne said she was discovered in a lift by producer Florenz Ziegfeld. "He was amazed I did not get out on his floor where every young actress was trying to see him and sent his secretary to find that girl in the blue hat with all the flowers."

After she retired from films, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed her a U.S. delegate to the United Nations.

Japan's plans for coronation 'Banzai' stir waves

TOKYO (AP) — "Banzai" may ring again through the corridors of Japan's imperial palace this fall as the nation celebrates its first coronation in more than six decades.

Two major newspapers said in front-page reports this week that officials planning the elaborate ceremony have given particular concern to how the cheers should be conducted.

Their caution, the reports said, stems from the large number of high-level foreign dignitaries expected to attend, and to debate within Japan over the role of the emperor.

During the main enthronement ceremony, scheduled Nov. 12, Emperor Akihito is to declare his accession from atop an ancient throne of lacquer and gold.

Then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will lead guests in three rounds of "Tenno Heika, Banzai," or "10,000 years to the emperor," the reports said.

"Banzai" means 10,000 years.

In a break with precedent, the prime minister will stand before the emperor in the palace, instead of shouting up at the throne from a garden below, said the mass circulation Asahi Shimbun.

The 500 or so foreign repre-

sentatives will not be asked to join in the cheer, it added.

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Sweden's King Gustav, and Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana have said they plan to attend the ceremony.

Because details of the ceremony and several other related events in November are still being discussed, government officials refused to comment on the newspaper reports.

"Banzai" is a widely used wish for longevity, and can be heard at weddings and even at the inauguration of prime ministers.

It is regularly shouted spontaneously on the emperor's birthday, or when he makes a public appearance. But because of the nature of the coronation, some people argue it would be inappropriate.

"With him up on the throne, symbolising the myth of his divine ascent to the heaven of the sun goddess, it would be very hard for us, as Christians, to accept such a cheer," said Tsutomu Moriyama, an official with the National Christian Council.

An official of the Socialist Party, Japan's largest opposition group, saw less of a problem.

"I think there is room for de-

bate about whether 'banzai' would be inappropriate," he said, requesting anonymity. "It's such a common cheer, some of our candidates even shout it when they win elections."

Although the coronation will be closely patterned after those of Emperor Akihito's two predecessors, officials have been forced to make some changes because of Japan's postwar constitution.

Before and during World War II, the emperor was legally "sacred and inviolable," and had the power to issue imperial ordinances in place of laws.

Though the emperor is believed to have exercised his political power only rarely, he was revered as a living god and used by Japan's wartime government to rally the people behind its military adventures.

After the war, U.S.-led allied occupation forces rewrote the constitution, making the monarch a largely symbolic figurehead and saying sovereignty rests with the people.

Most of the Japanese public supports the monarchy, but many of those who suffered oppression during the war continue to oppose it. Critics include scho-

lars, Christians, Buddhists and leftists.

Akihito will be the first emperor or crowned under the new law. Hirohito, Akihito's father, was crowned in 1928.

Akihito assumed the throne immediately after Hirohito died in January last year. His formal coronation has had to wait for a one-year mourning period to pass and for the harvesting of sacred rice, to be used in a ceremony on Nov. 22-23.

Four days of banquets, with a guest list of 3,400 Japanese and foreign dignitaries, will begin on the evening of Nov. 12, which the government intends to declare a national holiday.

Following the coronation, the emperor and empress will be joined by the prime minister and other royal family members in a motorcade from the imperial palace to the nearby Akasaka Palace, where the royal couple resides.

Though not exactly a parade, the motorcade will give common citizens a chance to get a glimpse of their newly crowned emperor. A touch of atmosphere will be created by bands, soldiers and police officers lining the streets.